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SAC executives give themselves pay raise

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

For next year's Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) executives, 25-per-cent pay increases, coming out of SAC's budget, have students scratching their heads.

The decision was made recently by all nine SAC executives from the college's three campuses that next year's SAC executives should receive a pay increase of $20 a week from $80 to $100.

The money comes out of the SAC budget.

"We're expected to put in at least 10 hours a week, so it breaks down to $10 an hour instead of $8," said Ryan McLaughlin, this year's SAC president.

McLaughlin said this decision was made because some of the SAC executives felt the amount they were being paid was not enough, considering the amount of work they do. "It wasn't enough to make it worthwhile."

He added that a pay increase could "very possibly" attract more student interest in SAC. "It makes it more feasible for students to use this as a part-time job."

McLaughlin said he used his salary as a means of paying for school and "would not have been able to survive without it."

"It (SAC executive salary) kills two birds with one stone. It allowed me to participate in student government and still pay rent, without having to get a job at McDonald's."

Jeff Dutcher, this year's vice-president in charge of internal affairs and next year's president, said he is "happy now," despite the pay increase. "I wasn't saying we should get more. We do our best no matter how much we get paid."

Dutcher said members of SAC put in many hours of work. He said the job involves "looking after the office, planning events, and organizing and co-ordinating events that are already going on." He added, "If people could spend a week with us, I'm sure they would see the amount of work we do, but it's worth it to me."

This photo montage illustrates a necessity in the lives of past SAC presidents: part-time employment and SAC duties, back-to-back. Jeff Dutcher, incoming Welland campus president, won't have to worry about this double duty with the 25-per-cent executive pay raise.

Photo by Sean F. Taylor

Next year's vice-president student events, Chris Newman, a first-year student in the Journalism-Print program, said he feels a 25-per-cent pay increase is a lot of money.

"I don't think it was a really good idea to give ourselves a pay increase at a time when student apathy is a problem and there's such a lack of interest in SAC."

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New titles define roles, reduce 'mish-mash'

Communications, media director to maintain community contacts

By CHRISTINA COLLI
Staff Writer

SAC by any other name will still be as good, if not better.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) executives at the three Niagara College campuses will experience a name change, effective for the 2001-02 school year.

The vice-president of internal affairs will be called the vice-president student affairs; the vice-president of public relations will be called the vice-president student events.

"We noticed this year that there wasn't a good division of jobs," says Ryan McLaughlin, Welland SAC president. "Everyone was doing a mish-mash of everyone else's work."

He says the executive changed the titles in order to establish a "more defined role for each of the executive members."

These changes also mean a shift in responsibilities. The constitution states that the vice-president student affairs will have new duties including being a liaison between student representatives and the campus sub-committee and being a liaison with students' issues and the Niagara College administration as well as the residence operation committee.

Constitutional amendments state the vice-president student events will co-ordinate college-wide events including Winterfest, SAC Week, Sexual Awareness Week and Food for Friends food drive.

With these changes, a new position will be introduced on SAC this September: the director of communications and media.

The director is a student position that will carry the responsibility of maintaining communication between the college, the community and other educational institutions.

"We shouldn't have to spend as much time as we do advertising events," says McLaughlin.

With the new position, he says, SAC can spend more time planning events for the students.

The changes were put forward by the SAC presidents and vice-presidents at all campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls, approved by the board of directors and finally decided upon at the annual general meeting held on April 10.

Congratulations Graduates!

The International Education Department extends
congratulations to all of the graduates of 2001.
We hope our international students keep in touch. If you would like to
be included on our web site, send us your success stories by email to:
international@niagarac.on.ca

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Eye on Niagara

Niagara earns top marks on KPI survey

By KAREN RENEE
Staff Writer

Niagara College students have sent administrators a message through the results of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) surveys — they are satisfied.

KPIs are government-mandated performance indicators administered in each Ontario college evaluating colleges in four areas to determine possible funding: student satisfaction, graduates' satisfaction, employer satisfaction with graduates and the employment rate of recent graduates.

Results of this year's KPIs were released on April 11.

Niagara College saw its marks improve in three out of four categories, notably the student satisfaction rate increased to 88 per cent of students saying they are satisfied with the college, up from 68 per cent last year.

Other results included 81.5 per cent of graduates being satisfied with their college experience, up from 75 per cent; 90.2 per cent of graduates were hired within six months following graduation, up from 87 per cent; and employer satisfaction took a small decrease to 90.8 per cent compared with 92 per cent in 2000.

Darrell Neufeld, the president's executive assistant, said the college is extremely appreciative of the results from the students and graduates.

"The students are sending us the message that we are on the right track and that they value the quality of their education and training at the college."

Neufeld said improvement in student services, enhanced professional development for staff, new technology and more student feedback through the course evaluation surveys all contributed to the general KPI increase. "What the students have told us is very positive. They appreciate the efforts we have made to improve," said Neufeld.

Last year, Niagara received $440,000 in performance funding, splitting the available $14 million with 25 colleges across the province.

Neufeld said the money made available through the recent KPI results would not be known until May.

Neufeld said it's important for students and graduates to know that the college appreciates and values their feedback. "We are not resting on our laurels. Our pledge to students is to continue to improve for them."

Murray embodies school spirit of Michael Yando

By TINA LANZILLOTTA
Staff Writer

Michael Yando's school spirit continues to inspire Niagara College students.

Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls hosted its 16th annual Michael Yando Award ceremony on April 4.

The award, which was founded by Yando's peers after his death in 1985, is given to a third-year Hotel and Restaurant Management program student who embodies the spirit of Yando. This year's recipient is Glenn Murray, the Student Administrative Council president at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

"I didn't expect this at all. I don't feel deserving of it because there are plenty of other people with a lot of spirit too," he says.

The winner was announced and a plaque was presented in the Kerrio Room after a formal dinner catered and served by the students and instructors of the college. About 40 people were in attendance, including college president Dan Patterson and his wife, Saundra.

"Michael made his name outlast his body," says the Jeremy Walls, SAC vice-president internal affairs and master of ceremonies for the night.

Although he didn't personally know Yando, says Walls, what he did learn about him was "cool people have come to Niagara College and have good relations with the community."

The 21-year-old Hotel and Management program student says the Michael Yando Award is unique. "The interesting thing about this award is that it wasn't set up by the teachers of the parents. It was set up by the classmates."

Murray, 41, attributes his successful year to his peers and their support. "I feel that I couldn't have had the enthusiasm I put into this year if I didn't have half the people in the school. They encouraged me and made me feel very young. This is a great honour because it comes from students and classmates."

The award was established in 1986 by Yando's peers in recognition of his spirit and devotion to his school. Michael's parents, Charles and Emily Yando, of Fort Erie, presented the award and described the fond memories their son had while he was attending the college.

Although Michael was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1984, he insisted on enrolling in the graduating year of the Hotel and Restaurant Management program in 1985.

Michael was optimistic and full of enthusiasm until his death on Oct. 24, that same year. It's been 16 years since his death, yet people could not help but be moved to tears by testimonials by those who knew him.

Glenn Murray receives the Michael Yando Award from Michael's parents, Charles and Emily, at a ceremony at the college's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls on April 4.

Photo by Melissa Pilon

"I remember when Michael would play touch football with his friends," says Charles, his voice trailing off. "He loved school."

Emily says it is a "great, great, great honour" to be able to present the award.

"We feel at home on sight," says Emily, adding, "We love this school. Students, professors, keep up the good work and God bless."

Bookmarks with the poem *Footprints*, by an unknown author, were distributed to everyone in the room. "That was Michael's favourite poem," says Charles.

"We don't question it anymore why he's not here," says Emily. "His work is here looking over the kids."

If Michael were alive today he would say, "it's just wonderful" that the students have an award in his name, says Emily, adding, "And I'm sure he is smiling on the college."

Students question SAC pay hike, 'what are they getting paid for?'

Continued from page 1

Newman said, "The key is, next year, we have to work that much harder to prove to everybody that it was money well spent." He added he is "not in SAC for the money."

"When I was first considering SAC, I didn't even realize it was a paid position," said Karen Brown, next year's vice-president student affairs, also a first-year student in the Journalism-Print program. "When I found out it was, I thought it was incredible."

Brown said she has volunteered as a SAC student representative all year and liked being involved. "I would do it whether we were paid or not." Brown added that often SAC executives put in 15 to 20 hours a week, exceeding the required 10 hours a week.

Rachel Hopkin, 21, a first-year student in the Early Childhood Education program, said she disagrees with the pay increase of SAC executives. "They don't do anything." Hopkin, of Hamilton, said the only time she could remember benefiting from SAC this year was when she received a Niagara College bag at Orientation day in September.

"They should hire Rec(reation) and Leisure (Services program) students who could actually organize activities," she said. "If they want a raise, they should lower our tuition."

Jason Young, 18, a first-year Art and Design Fundamentals – Graphic Design Production student, said he feels he is very uninformed about SAC. "I don't have a clue what they do there." He added, "They haven't affected me at all this year. What are they getting paid for?"

20-year-old Niagara student arrested, charged with sexual assault

By CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN
Staff Writer

A Niagara College student was arrested and subsequently charged with sexual assault on March 30.

The 20-year-old student, of First Avenue, in Welland, is accused of sexually assaulting another Niagara College student in the Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre in early November, says Detective Dave Swan of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Swan, who was the arresting officer, says the accused was an "acquaintance" of the accuser at the time of the assault, adding the accused was voluntarily allowed to enter the accuser's room in the residence.

Swan says the alleged assault was on "the minor side of sexual assault," although the charge does not differentiate between levels of seriousness.

Swan says it was a "matter of fondling, not intercourse or rape." He says he does not think the accused will face jail time.

Brigitte Chiki, director of student services for Niagara College, says the college is aware of the situation and is investigating whether college students are at risk of repeated assault. She says the college "takes cues from parents and the police" in this matter.

Swan says there is "no serious risk" to students.

Chiki says assaults of this nature happen "once or twice a year." She says with the residence putting 230 people in one place, "the risk is greater of having inappropriate behaviour."

Chiki says the college could not disclose any further information on the accused. "Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the college staff is prohibited from disclosing personal information about students without permission."

The accused will be going to court in late April for his first appearance, says Swan.

NIAGARA SUCCESSES

2001 graduates to be recognized in June

By VICKI SWANTON
Staff Writer

The snow's melted, the trees are starting to bud and another school year is coming to an end.

For some Niagara College students this just means another year to try to find a summer job to afford to come back to college next year.

For the graduates, it means a time to move on. Like elementary school and high school, college too has a ceremony for graduates who have successfully completed another stepping-stone in life.

There are five ceremonies planned over a three-day period of June 12, 13 and 14, all at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

2001 Spring Convocation Ceremonies at Glendale Campus

Ceremony No. 1
Tues., June 12, 2001, at 2 p.m.

School of Computer Studies
Computer Engineering Technician
Computer Programmer
Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op)
Computer Programmer/Analyst (Co-op)
Computer Network Operations (Post-graduate)
Microelectronics Manufacturing (Post-graduate)

School of Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technology
Electrical Engineering Technician
Electronics Engineering Technician
Electrical Engineering Technology – Power Systems (Co-op)
Electronics Engineering Technology (Co-op)

School of Media and Design
Arts & Design Fundamentals – Graphic Design Production
Journalism-Print
Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film
Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate)
Professional Screenwriting (Post-graduate)
Public Relations (Post-graduate)

Ceremony No. 2
Tues., June 12, 2001, at 7 p.m.

School of Administrative Studies
Office Administration – Executive (Co-op)

School of Justice Studies
Correctional Worker
Law and Security Administration
Law Clerk (Co-op)
Police Foundations

School of Construction, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Manufacturing Technician
Construction Engineering Technology - Architecture
Manufacturing Engineering Technology
Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op)

Centre for Motive Power Training
Motor Power Operations - Automotive (Co-op)

Continuing Education and Distance Learning
Part-time programs

Ceremony No. 3
Wed., June 13, 2001, at 2 p.m.

School of Business and Entrepreneurship
Business – Accounting (Academic & Co-op)
Business – Retail Management
Business – Sales
Business Administration - Accounting (Academic)
Business Administration - Accounting (Co-op)
Business Administration - Human Resources (Co-op)
Business Administration – Marketing (Co-op)
Business Administration – Operations Management (Co-op)
International Business Management (Post-graduate)

School of Culinary Arts
Culinary Management

School of Hospitality and Tourism
Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op)
Tourism (Co-op)
Hotel Management Systems (Post-graduate)
Tourism Development (Post-graduate)

Ceremony No. 4
Wed., June 13, 2001, at 7 p.m.

School of Community Studies
Early Childhood Education
Educational Resources and Special Needs
Human Relations
Recreation and Leisure Services
Social Service Worker
Child and Youth Worker
Special Event Management (Post-graduate)

Ceremony No. 5
Thurs., June 14, 2001, at 2 p.m.

Centre for Environmental Training
Environmental Technician – Field and Laboratory (Academic & Co-op)
Ecosystem Restoration (Post-graduate)
Environmental Management (Post-graduate)
Geographic Information Systems (Post-graduate)

School of Horticulture and Agribusiness
Horticultural Technician (Co-op)
Landscape Technician (Co-op)

School of General and Preparatory Studies
College Vocational
General Arts and Science - Health Science Preparatory
General Arts and Science

School of Health Studies
Dental Assistant (Levels I and II)
Dental Hygiene
Paramedic

Thank you for your support

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

An Open Letter to Students

On behalf of the entire college community, I wish to thank our students for the remarkable commitment of $1.2 million in support of the expansion of our Hospitality and Tourism programs.

This multi-year commitment, directed specifically in support of technology improvements through the Student Technology Enhance Committee fund, comprises a remarkable donation to our fundraising campaign that will benefit Niagara College students for years to come.

I would especially like to thank the members of our Student Administrative Councils for the leadership they have shown in making this generous pledge a reality. Your commitment is a shining example for other donors and supporters to follow, and will greatly assist the College in our fundraising efforts. This demonstration of support and faith in the future of the College sends a very clear to message to the community about the value of investing in Niagara College. Thank you for leading the way!

Please accept my personal best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer, and to those who will be graduating, I look forward to seeing you at convocation in June.

Sincerely,

Dan Patterson, President

BIOGRAPHIES

Journalist offers advice to job seekers

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

A college diploma is a step in the right start direction for chasing your dream, and Jeff MacKay says he is a strong believer in that philosophy.

MacKay, 27, of St. Catharines, graduated from the Journalism-Print program in 1996.

> ***'The publisher and I determine what the content will be and decide what gets in.'***
>
> ***— Jeff MacKay***

After he finished the program, he took the one-year Public Relations (Post-graduate) program and graduated from that in 1997.

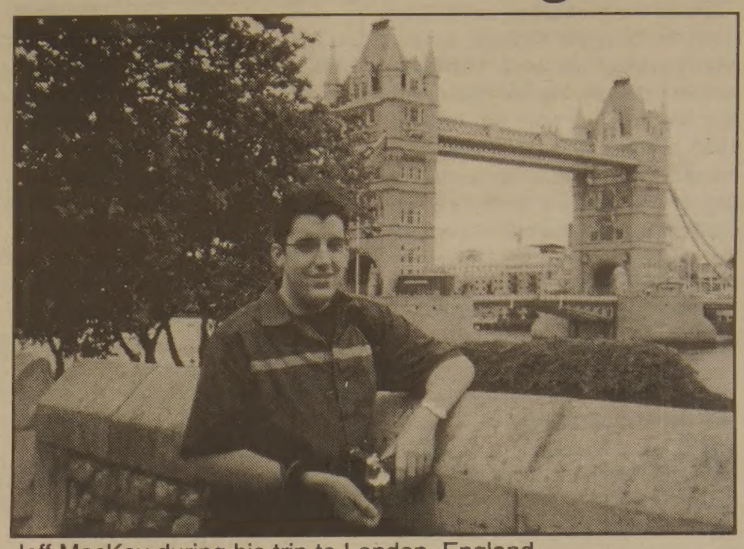
MacKay says he recommends the Journalism-Print program to anyone interested in writing.

MacKay works as an assistant editor for Norris-Whitney Communications, on Hannover Drive, in St. Catharines. The company publishes various magazines, including *Canadian Musician, Canadian Music Trade, Professional Sound, Professional Lighting* and *Music Directory Canada.*

MacKay is responsible for hiring freelancers, writers, photographers and illustrators and for assigning them deadlines for publication.

"The publisher and I determine what the content will be and decide what gets in. Any copy used, I edit and proofread, and I go over layout with production to make sure it looks good."

MacKay says the work environment is "very fast-paced" and can often be stressful because of deadlines.



Jeff MacKay during his trip to London, England.

Submitted photo

He says when he was in high school he didn't know what he wanted to do with his life. He is a graduate of Southwood Secondary School in Cambridge, Ont.

"I enjoyed writing and had a chance to go to university for English, but I decided that journalism would be more applicable (for me)."

MacKay says he values his college because his diplomas helped get him a job in an area that he is interested in. "I think it (the Journalism-Print diploma) would be good for people, as long as people apply themselves. It is good because students learn all aspects of journalism, and it is important to learn every skill well because it makes you more marketable."

MacKay says a college diploma is important in today's society because it gives you hands-on experience.

"Sometimes it is better than a BA in university as you get better hands-on training, which can be important in the workplace."

Outside of work, MacKay says he has always been interested in music and mountain biking.

When the weather is nice, he says he likes to ride his bike, but also has a passion for playing guitar, something he has done for 11 years.

Dental professor helps others in Germany

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

Ursula Pelissero's mission for promotion of preventive dentistry goes far beyond the walls of Niagara College.

Pelissero, a faculty of dentistry and clinical instructor at the college, recently concluded a two-week trip to Germany where she lectured, educated and helped upgrade dental equipment.

"The concept of prevention has not been adopted by the profession nor individuals (in Germany)," says Pelissero. "There is an interest in what's going on and a definite desire to want to participate in this."

Pelissero, 51, was invited to speak in Germany by Dr. Hermer Habersack, co-ordinator of Prophylaxis 2000, an earlier dental conference in Germany.

"He is a dentist I collaborated with on Project St. Petersburg. The St. Petersburg mission and the speech in Germany are definitely interconnected due to Dr. Habersack."

Pelissero helped Dr. Habersack "establish oral health" with the mission. She also assisted to "provide the equipment necessary and assistance to develop preventive care for children" of the St. Petersburg Children's Institute for Prosthetics and Orthotics in Russia.

> ***'You plant the seeds over there for them to grow. You can't solve the problem as one person, but you can plant a few seeds and see if some of them take root.'***
>
> ***— Ursula Pelissero***

Initially, Pelissero's journey was to spend time in Germany and Russia; however, Pelissero was denied access to Russia.

"We were unable to get a visa this time around. The (Vladimir) Putin government has tightened up the borders, so we had to get an invitation from the minister of economic affairs and we just plain ran out of time. Even for the fact it was for a humanitarian cause, it had no impact."

> ***'The concept of prevention has not been adopted by the profession nor individuals (in Germany).'***
>
> ***— Ursula Pelissero***

Despite this setback, the purpose of the trip would not be denied, says Pelissero.

"Instead of us going in and delivering the equipment to the institute (in Russia) and showing the dentist (Dr. Dmitry Schcherbina) how everything works with that special equipment, we went to Plan B: To pay for his plane ticket to come out of Russia, so that he could bring the equipment in."

Pelissero says she cashed in all the donations from her speaking engagements in order to fly Schcherbina to Germany with the modified equipment.

The reception she received in Germany was "very encouraging," says Pelissero. "Everyone was glad to see us. They wanted to know more. They were hungry for the information. It was wonderful to see groups of individuals around us waiting to ask questions of things which we take for granted."

Ursula Pelissero sits at her desk at the college.

Photo by Rob Luciani

"We (Canadian dentistry) are really excelling in preventive dentistry. The majority of the Canadian public is aware of the importance of oral health. It is important to keep encouraging and keep the movement alive."

The dentistry technology in Germany is not that different from Canada's, says Pelissero.

"In Germany they have got wonderful equipment. Technologically they excel. They've got the best radiographic technology there and they are very advanced with computers."

The approach to preventive dental treatment is "an entirely new concept for them (Germany)," says Pelissero.

"They have not yet attained the preventive medicine or preventive dentistry concept where you stop things from happening before they happen. Their attitude is 'Let's wait for this disease to happen and now let's fix it.'"

Even the doctors in their hospitals are not familiar with the importance of preventive treatment in dentistry, says Peliserro.

"There is a small group of individuals attempting to incorporate that (prevention) into the dental profession, but they are met with resistance, particularly from some individuals within their own profession, from the insurance companies, which have a strong hold on deciding what treatment you get and on the government because it has to be legislated."

If an individual requires preventive therapy of any kind in Germany, that person is not covered by insurance companies and is unable to "pay out of their own pockets" because it is illegal, she added.

"They are being denied, and bureaucrats are basically deciding what type of dental care they are going to be getting."

Pelissero's lectures focused on the importance of oral health, individual patient needs and diagnosis, and the concept of a team approach in treatment.

"Everybody is different and we have to be able to tune in on those specific needs. This is a team approach on total care for the patient. That was something that was foreign to the dental team (in Germany)."

The first level in changing current dental practices like those of Germany's should come from education and improved health promotion, says Pelissero.

Public education will put pressure on "forces which are currently opposing this treatment approach," she says.

"If the public can be educated and there is a greater demand for this type of treatment and service, then there's pressure on politicians, there is pressure on dentists, and also pressure on the insurance companies to say 'we want this covered because it is important to us and necessary.'"

The opportunity to go to another country and share knowledge of what she "loves to do" was rewarding. She says she hopes to continue creating awareness of preventive dentistry.

"I was pleased to have accomplished some of the objectives and goals for Russia and thrilled I was so warmly received in Germany.

"You plant the seeds over there for them to grow. You can't solve the problem as one person, but you can plant a few seeds and see if some of them take root."

Teacher finds new life after 'the Mack'

By RYAN SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

Beginning her teaching career at Niagara College's Nursing program at the Mack School of Nursing in St. Catharines, Dr. Marilyn Quinn says she "never saw myself doing it (teaching)."

Graduating from the Hamilton Civic Hospital's three-year Nursing program, Quinn, 58, started her career as a registered nurse (RN) at a hospital in Belleville, Ont.

In 1970, Quinn left Belleville to work in Kitchener in 1980. She then worked throughout the Niagara region's hospitals as a RN, performing tasks in pediatrics, intensive care units and emergency rooms. She received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Waterloo in 1993.

Quinn was then asked, in 1984, to work at Niagara College in the Nursing program as a part-time teacher specializing in pediatrics. She began a full-time job here in 1985. From 1985 to 1989, she earned her master's in education degree from Brock University in St. Catharines as a part-time student. Quinn then attended the University of Toronto, from 1989 to 1995, as a part-time student and received her doctorate of education, while working full time at Niagara College.

Continuing her teaching at Niagara's Mack School of Nursing, affectionately called "the Mack," until the Nursing program was "axed" in 1996, she says she then began teaching numerous courses at Niagara College's Welland campus.

When the Nursing program was eliminated, she says, a number of people thought it was "a mistake" because the Mack had been a part of Niagara College for such a "very long time."

Photo by Ryan Sutherland

DR. MARILYN QUINN

Quinn says she was upset when she heard the Nursing program was being terminated, but she believes the college did what it had to do.

She says some people have voiced their opinion about reinstating the Nursing program at the college. "I think the college (Niagara) has taken the direction towards tourism and technology as their focus, and I can't see it would be viable to resurrect such health and science programs such as the Nursing program."

As an 11-year veteran of that program, the loss of it was "a tragedy," she says.

Quinn says she enjoys teaching, yet finds that students with a lot of family and social responsibility find it difficult to have high academic expectations.

"Students are so overwhelmed by what is going on in their personal lives, and teachers must be aware of their problems," says Quinn, adding, "There are only so many hours in the day. It's hard for students to focus on high academic standards and regular responsibilities."

When Quinn began teaching at the Welland campus in 1996, she says, she had general elective courses providing for all general and preparatory programs. She teaches psychology, child psychology, and moral reasoning and the individual, a course she developed while she was teaching at Mack.

Quinn says she thinks it's a good course that would interest anyone.

She says she believes "it is good for students to participate in moral debate and discussion."

'Common sense' nurse's key tool in student health advice

By JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

Niagara College nurse Carolyn Gould says she loves her job because it is "forever changing."

Gould, of Fonthill, can be found in the health centre (L20) on the Welland campus from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. She has worked at the college since August 1991.

Gould became a registered nurse (RN) at the Women's College Hospital in Toronto. She says at the time "the field was mainly male dominated." This college gave her the opportunity to "learn hands-on" instead of in a hospital that was mainly female physicians and patients.

"I have worked in every single area of hospitals," but, she says, she was working in public health when "I realized I needed a degree."

Gould moved from Newmarket to attend D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y. This was "a lot of book learning," says Gould, adding she proved what she "was capable of" when she received her bachelor of nursing science degree in 1999.

Before becoming a nurse, she says she thought about other career possibilities. She says in high school she wanted to be a teacher. She later discovered that she would like to work in a hospital. She says she thought about becoming an X-ray or lab technician, but these jobs were not right for her.

Gould says she finally decided on nursing and if she could choose anything to do with her life, she would still be a nurse.

She says she likes working at the college because she enjoys working with the college age group and it gives her a chance to do some teaching.

"I get to do a little bit of nursing, a little bit of psychology, a little bit of sexual health, nutrition and first aid." When addressing any health issue, Gould says, "common sense is the tool."

She says it is important to look at health from "many sides" because "when one part of the body is not working, everything else is affected."

One of Gould's main interests is psychology. She says she worked in mental health for seven years before coming to the college. She describes the human mind as "phenomenal."

"The brain is often misunderstood," says Gould, adding she has seen a change in the way mental health patients are treated. Since the 1980s, she says, "a great deal" has been learned about psychology. Different diseases are understood better, and medications have been further developed.

"It makes me happy to see mental health patients outside living their own life and taking care of themselves."

Away from work, Gould has a daughter, 29, whom she "admires." Some of Gould's hobbies include playing cards, walking and curling. She says she enjoys gardening and bird watching and finds these activities "very peaceful." She says she enjoys gardening because "I can see the results of my work."

As the college nurse, Gould says her main health concerns for students are alcohol and sexual health problems.

She says "alcohol does alter one's behaviour" and that "there is a false idea that you need alcohol for a good time."

She says she is concerned about drinking and driving and the "date rape drug," Rohypnol. "It is around here," she says, adding there have been a few cases reported at the college. She advises that females, in particular, watch out for themselves and their friends.

Carolyn Gould, who says alcohol and sexual health are main areas of concern for students, gives a blood pressure test.

File photo

Gould says sexual health problems are an important issue at the college and one that the health centre deals with a lot.

Students who need someone to talk to or need advice about health issues are welcome to visit Gould in the health centre. "I'm an open book. What you see is what you get," she says.

Crossover appeal for Office Administration student

By W. COLIN GIBSON
Staff writer

Before she graduates, Charlene Devries will have used her office administration skills, built a resumé and learned a thing or two about students' health needs.

As an assistant to the Niagara College nurses, in the health offices, Devries does typing, filing and reports.

As part of her Office Administration – Executive (Co-op) program she is required to do at least 12 hours a week, for a total of 400 hours, in a co-op setting, to meet graduation requirements.

She is in her first year. "When I have spare time between classes, I'll drop by the office and help out," said Devries

Devries has been working on co-op since January, so she hasn't seen too much "crazy stuff."

She has seen "a lot" of depressed people, people looking for adhesive bandages, smokers looking for gum or candy, and other people looking for condoms. "We go through at least 50 a week." To mark some special days, she says red condoms were available for St. Valentine's Day and green ones for St. Patrick's Day.

There are two nurses who rotate shifts between the Welland and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Glendale campuses. The nurses can't prescribe drugs at either campus because "that is for the doctor," said Devries. They occasionally can give out Tylenol or cough syrups if needed, though, and there is a rest area.

Devries says, "Both nurses are great to work with," and she enjoys her time in the office. She chose Niagara because it was close to home, and she chose her program because she had done some work in that field before.

Devries says she hopes to work at an insurance company doing secretarial work.

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TRANSIT

Students say public transit needs improvement

By MELISSA BAXTER
Staff Writer

Three college students say they are not impressed with the Welland Transit system.

Welland Transit is a primary source of transportation for many college students, including Shannon Baylis, 19, Jessica Wood, 20, and Amanda Jacques, 19.

Welland Transit has nine regular bus routes. The operating hours are from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The hours are 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday. The buses operate on an hourly basis.

Niagara College is marked on the bus schedule map. Despite the importance of the college, students are not given special privileges that other groups are given, including discounts

Baylis, a full-time student in the Pharmacy Technician program, says she has taken the bus a few times using an Econopass and was not impressed.

"The bus ride gave me a tour of Welland. All I wanted to do was go home."

She says, "The cost of the bus passes is outrageous." She says she doesn't understand why secondary school students get a discount but college students don't. "It's a college town. A discount should be mandatory," says Baylis.

The cost of monthly passes for college students is $55 for unlimited ridership. Secondary school students pay $43. An Econopass is available for $30 and is good for 22 bus trips; Brock University students in St. Catharines receive a $10 discount on that city's transit system.

Joe Merkas, 31, manager of the Welland Transit bus terminal, says he doesn't know why college students don't get a discount. "A lot of students complain about the prices." He says he sells more Econopasses than monthly passes.

Welland city council is responsible for setting the prices of Welland Transit's services.

Wood, a full-time student in the Pharmacy Technician program, says she takes the bus once or twice a week, paying cash. She says her opinion of Welland Transit is that "it sucks."

"More buses that have more frequent pickups would be a major improvement," she says, adding, more often than not, the buses are late.

Merkas says the accuracy of the bus schedules "depends on traffic." He says during rush hour the buses may be slightly off schedule.

Jacques, a full-time student in the Child and Youth Worker program, says she takes the bus two or three times a week, paying cash.

She says the bus is costly and rides are too long. "The price is too expensive for college students, and I think it takes too long to get around the city."

She says the buses should come more often, although they do come on schedule when she is waiting.

The buses run hourly, and the times are shown on the bus schedule. Schedules are available on campus and at the Welland Transit station.

"I, along with a few friends, have several concerns about Welland Transit," says Baylis.

She says city council should review its budget and improve the service and the satisfaction level of college students taking the bus by providing fair discounts.

Welland Transit bus driver says 'it's a great job'

By CHRISTINA COLLI
Staff Writer

Hail to the bus driver.

Welland Transit employee Doug Letourneau gets behind the wheel of the 5B every day and has for the past 12 years.

Letourneau travels the Lincoln-Wellington route from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The 39-year-old resident of Niagara Falls, Ont., says he genuinely likes his job.

"It's a great job," says Letourneau, who is on a first-name basis with everyone who rides the bus. "You get to meet a lot of people and see a lot of interesting things."

He says he considers himself a "people person" because he makes friends with all the riders.

"The passengers are like family. I see them every day," he says. "They'll even bring me cookies and pies and presents at Christmas time."

An avid golfer and member of a cribbage league at Club Social in Welland, Letourneau says he has plenty to keep him busy outside of working hours.

"I like this job, but it's not my life. My kids are."

The North York, Ont., native lives with his 13-year-old daughter in Niagara Falls and spends weekends with his three- and four-year-old sons.

"In the summer I like to go camping. I'm the outdoor type and my kids love it."

Letourneau says he took this job at Welland Transit to support his family despite his original ambitions to be a graphic artist.

"I recently took a few Continuing Education courses at Niagara College," says the 1979 graduate of G.B. Warren High School in Toronto. "I took drafting, design and some computer classes."

He says his positive disposition and dedication to personal self-improvement show that he does not "regret the decision to not go to college."

Letourneau says he knows there are a few bus drivers who don't like their job.

"Some complain about their jobs, though I'm not sure why because I'm pretty easy-going. I always go to work with a smile on my face."

Welland Transit route No. 3, the First Avenue bus. A driver greets passengers at the bus terminal on his regular route.

Photo by Mike Van Kooten

Public transportation systems need co-ordination, fee review

By W. COLIN GIBSON
Staff Writer

An informal survey done on a number of Niagara College and Brock University students from various campuses indicates the consensus is the transit systems in the Niagara region need upgrading.

"They (Welland Transit) charge too much money, since we are students who are already trying to pay for the cost of school," said Terra Lynn Idzenga, 18, a student in her second term of the Child and Youth program at Niagara in Welland. The Welland buses stop service at 6 p.m.

A student who lives in Niagara Falls must pay $3.50 to get from home to Main and Ferry streets.

At point A, the student awaits the Brock Rapid bus, where the student must be given his or her transfer and pay $1 for another transfer.

With this transfer, the student can then get on the Welland bus, at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont.

Rebbeca Cain, 19, who is in her first year of Child Studies at Brock University, is having the same problem. She said, "There is a 1:05 p.m. bus and a 5:05 p.m. bus, and if you're done class at 1:30 p.m., you have to wait for the five (p.m.) bus."

She isn't alone. There are many students that have to wait for the bus, some up to three hours.

"The bus doesn't run enough or late enough, and it costs too much," says Brian Grassie, who also attends Brock University and is a second-year political science major. The Brock Rapid comes five times a day, with the connecting Niagara Falls and Welland buses.

In a more frequent occurrence, the St. Catharines bus at Brock leaves just as the Welland bus arrives at Brock. This strands people outside.

"The damn (St. Catharines) bus leaves us at Brock and we have to stay in the cold because our bus didn't wait two minutes," Idzenga added.

Students have suggested one solution might be the amalgamation of the local transit systems, including Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines.

By comparison, Ottawa has a transit system, called OC Transpo (Ottawa-Carleton Transportation), that is ever-expanding, charges single rates throughout the regions and provides regular and frequent service, sometimes every five minutes for some routes.

In Niagara, transit system amalgamation has been talked about "on many occasions for several years," said Dave Stuart, the marketing supervisor for the St. Catharines Transit System.

On the bus on any day, students complain about the buses, their connections, the cost or the wait.

"I think there should be separate buses, like one from St. Catharines to the Welland campus, and one from the (Niagara) Falls to the Welland campus. And teachers don't give you any slack when you're late," said Jen Moore, a second-term Child and Youth Worker program student at the Welland campuse.

Another idea is a unified bus pass for use on the three regional transits.

Terry Liebrock, general manager of Niagara Falls Transit, said, "(Amalgamation) would work if the 12 municipalities (after governmental amalgamation) went under one system and one single fare throughout the region."

Margaret Fortin, office transit co-ordination for the Welland Transit, said amalgamation "would probably benefit a lot of communities." She agreed fares are "too expensive for Brock and college students."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said, "The Region (Regional Municipality of Niagara) is recognizing this problem, not just for the educational sector, but the health sector too."

Officials at the college and at Brock are aware of the problem and are looking for improved service.

Patterson says each municipality has a pool of money. "Collectively if we pool our resources together we may have better service," said Patterson.

Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of enterprise and student services, supports student transportation. She has made arrangements with 5-0 Taxi, in St. Catharines, so students could have transportation to and back from Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on certain occasions. Student Services is the office in charge of negotiating times with Brock and starting bus bursaries and is contributes feedback to the Region on transportation.

The college, through this office, has sent in "a written submission that highlights the difficulties for students on and off campus," said Martha Casson, Niagara's vice-president of enterprise and student services.

A study, involving steering committee members and regional staff, will examine how to improve transits.

This will include a high profile Web site and interaction with established media, says a document mailed from the Regional Niagara Public Works Department.

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
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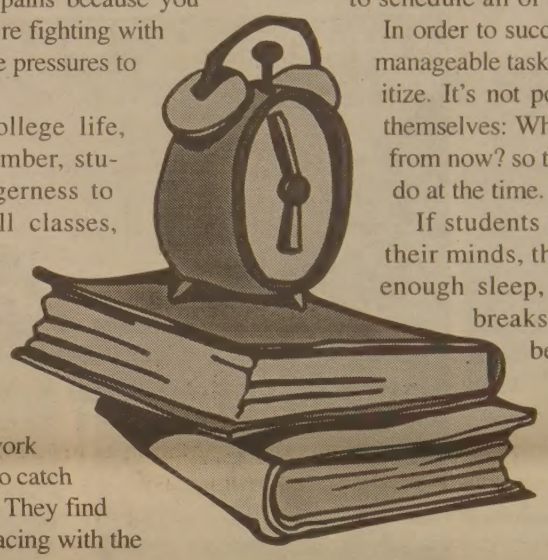
Students, make time to manage time

Picture this: Finals are one week away. You haven't started your term paper although you've had the topic for months. You have serious hunger pains because you haven't had time to eat today. You're broke. You're tired. You're fighting with your roommate and there's also your job. By the way, there are pressures to perform well and your grade point average to consider.

Welcome to the everyday stresses and strains of college life, where the best of students' intentions are lost. In September, students come to college with a fresh attitude and an eagerness to learn. Do the work; it's as simple as that. Attend all classes, complete all assignments on time, and be as organized as possible.



For some reason, toward the end of the year, the classes are not as full as they once were, assignments are being completed the day of, and organization? What's that?

College life can be stressful. It seems that once the schoolwork piles up and students get too far behind, it's almost impossible to catch up. Some students are in a constant state of trying to catch up. They find themselves hurrying from one assignment to another, always racing with the clock and never getting on top of things.

If students are going to get through the school year without losing their minds, they have to be organized. This means planning ahead and using a day planner to schedule all of their important dates and deadlines.

In order to succeed in college, students should break large tasks into smaller manageable tasks and create deadlines for each. Students should learn to prioritize. It's not possible to complete everything at once. Students should ask themselves: What needs to be done now? What needs to be done two weeks from now? so they have an idea of where they're at and of what they need to do at the time.

If students are going to get through the school year without losing their minds, they have to take care of themselves. Students need to get enough sleep, eat regularly and well. Students need to take routine breaks from their schoolwork, so the workload does not become overwhelming.

Students need to maintain a positive outlook and a positive self-image. Students are only human and, therefore, not perfect.

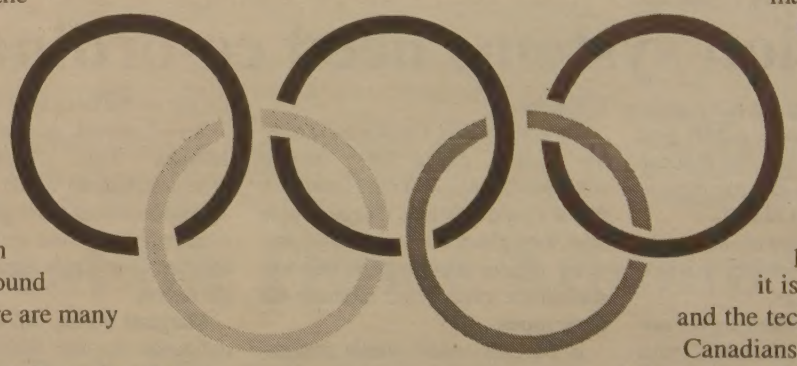
Stress is harmful when it is excessive. The way students interpret the stress in their lives will determine how they cope with it. The way students cope with stress will determine how they succeed in the college realm.

Laura Lennie

Toronto deserves 2008 Summer Olympics

The selection for the 2008 Olympic Games site is drawing near, and it appears that the front-runners for the prestigious title of host are none other than Beijing, China, Paris, France, and our own "Big Smoke," Toronto.

Torontonians may have felt snubbed by their recent and notable absence on the "world-class city" list (Montreal did make the list, perhaps to the chagrin of English Canada). Now is the time for Toronto to re-enter the world's spotlight by hosting the 2008 Summer Olympics.



There are benefits and problems with hosting the Olympics. Concerns include traffic congestion, never-ending construction, security problems and the squatters on the Toronto waterfront property chosen as ground zero for the Olympic facilities. However, there are many potential benefits for Toronto.

When Seoul was awarded the 1988 Summer Olympics, the South Koreans began an intensive program of updating their traffic system, including greatly expanding their subway. Toronto could use a similar overhaul of its subway network. Plus, it would give a justification to extend the GO Train service around the Golden Horseshoe, and that can only mean good things for the Niagara region.

Given the mediocre 14-medal Canadian tally at the last Olympic games, perhaps our athletes would benefit from having their own cheering section and huge red-and-white maple-leafed flags all over the city. In the 2000 Summer Olympics, Australian competitors earned 58 medals, good enough for the country's fourth place overall ranking. Their wildly cheering home crowds no doubt spurred the Australian athletes on. There's no reason why Canada couldn't duplicate such results in Toronto, Canada's most populous city.

Toronto may not be a "world-class" city on a par with Montreal, nor as pretty as Vancouver, but it is still impressive. Toronto has the people, facilities and the technology to host the Games.

Canadians are increasingly concerned with globalization, being absorbed by American culture and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Hosting the Olympic Games would give us a chance to shine once again in the international spotlight.

Brad Demers

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

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INSIGHTS

Spring makes people friendly, happy

By STEPHANIE HULL
Staff Writer
Column

Spring is in the air, finally.

On Feb. 2, groundhog Wiarton Willy came forward to make his prediction. Willy didn't see his shadow, indicating an early spring. Boy, was he wrong.

After many extra weeks of snow, harsh winds and just plain cold weather, it's finally safe to say spring is here. I'm sure most people, like me, are thankful the warm weather is fast approaching.

If you look outside, it's easy to see the positive effects the warm weather is having on people as they're out walking, jogging, in-line skating and skateboarding. When you walk outside, even the smells are different. The delightful aroma of a barbecue fills the air. It's wonderful seeing a family getting together in the warm weather.

It's a fun time for children. They can run outside without having to worry about putting on a heavy winter jacket and boots. After spending a day in the park this weekend, it was refreshing to see the water in the stream flowing and the children in their T-shirts playing on the playground. Many couples were out walking their dogs or having a picnic in the beautiful sun.

The warm weather draws people away from their televisions. Instead of staying inside to watch the latest breaking news on who's cheating on whom on Jerry Springer, people actually want to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

Outdoor sports such as beach volleyball, road hockey, baseball and outdoor soccer have begun. I'm sure this makes many people happy to get out and play their favourite sport again.

Many people find an easier and more affordable way to keep in shape once the spring comes. It is easier to walk, jog or in-line skate without all the snow and cold weather. These types of exercises are more accessible and people don't have to pay to go to a gym. The excitement of opening the outdoor pool was always my favourite part of spring.

Overall, I find that people just seem happier when spring comes. While cooling off from the surprising 60-degree plus weather with an ice cream cone this weekend, a woman said to me, "It's just gorgeous out here, don't you think?"

It's incredible how people interact with one another when talking about the weather. In the winter it's always complaints and bad moods, but once the spring hits, people seem friendlier and more positive. One thing I have noticed is that people smile a lot more, even to strangers.

I, for one, am thankful. Although I got sunburned, I'm not complaining.

Reverence for life, cure for fear of aging

By RICHELLE GRATTON
Staff Writer
Column

In life the never-ending process of aging continues. Are you afraid of losing your youth?

Soon turning 21, I often wonder where the time has gone, so I can only imagine what my grandmother must feel.

Hearing comments from older people, such as "It was only yesterday when I was your age," disturbs me because I am afraid of getting old.

I'm not afraid of looking old, but concerned I will not have as much reverence for life as I should.

My grandmother, the ultimate optimist, said to me that you have to appreciate life and all of its gifts, and only then will you increase the value of aging.

As much as I like to believe I revere all things in life, it's hard to believe that I appreciate everything, because of all that I am used to.What exactly is reverence? How can I feel it to its full potential when I have never been deprived of anything?

I sleep in a bed with five-inch therapeutic foam and six pillows, when there are children who sleep on dirt and use hay for comfort.

I eat meals that the same children who sleep on dirt can't imagine. They don't even have a mental image of what I consume daily because they don't watch television or see ads to make them crave fast food as often I do.

Because I have never been deprived of these things, but others have, I should have a reason to feel reverence. However, using others' suffering as my gauge to appreciate life makes me feel uneasy.

I do give thanks for the life I've been given, but it's very easy to forget that when we're used to the everyday gifts we receive.

Albert Schweitzer, a great philosopher and humanitarian, wrote, "If I am a thinking being, I must regard life other than my own with equal reverence, for I shall know that it longs for fullness and development as deeply as I do myself."

Schweitzer had the gift to fully appreciate life, to the extent he refused to hurt even a blade of grass. I'm not too sure that my level of reverence will be so high that I wouldn't kill a bug when it lands on me. Nonetheless, having the smallest appreciation for anything is a good start.

If you have a fear of regretting, then take everything as an experience and you will grow from it—or call my grandmother for a motivational speech.

I understand how people fear aging. I fear it myself. The thought of not being young and not being able to do the things that I can do now scares me, and I am an incredibly lazy person. The fact that I know I can do so many things now that I won't be able to in the future has motivated me to get off my lazy butt. It's all about what I'll regret not doing when I had the chance to do it and am no longer able.

What I don't understand is a person becoming so obsessed with aging that that obsession forces him or her to spend thousands of dollars on plastic surgery. Some people get to a point when their faces look like plastic dolls and their body's skin is saggy because in reality they are over 60.

Maybe I'll find reverence in the fact I want to accomplish so much in my life, aging might not matter. Then, when I'm old, my saggy face will match my saggy body.

Understanding surroundings for safe country

By WANDA MERSEREAU
Staff Writer
Column

I recently sat beside a 24-year-old girl who asked me, "What is an STD?"

Someone had e-mailed her a joke that she did not understand.

She told me that her parents don't talk about things like that. STD means sexually transmitted disease. She told me that it is part of her culture to leave "bedroom happenings in the bedroom."

Her lack of knowledge is very dangerous. People of all ages must take more personal responsibility in understanding what's going on around them.

In Canada, we are fortunate to be protected from many issues other countries' citizens are not. We are lucky to have a health care system that is free for us all to take part in. We have employment legislation to ensure we are paid fairly for our work.

We have the right to religion. We are able to worship whomever and however we choose. This is not the case in many countries. In Canada, we are lucky because we are seemingly protected by legislated rights, but we do have our own sets of problems. Like most countries, Canada must deal with violence, prejudices and sexual disease.

It is not safe to live in a country where you do not understand what is going on around you.

It is not safe to be unaware of the violent acts that happen everyday. You must be aware that you can not walk through certain parts of towns at night by yourself.

It is not safe to be unaware of prejudices, because it is the unknowing people who are poisoning our minds. If you are not aware of people being treated a certain way based merely on their skin tone, how will you ever be able to stop it?

It is not safe to be unaware of sexual disease. People are dying every day because of STDs and if you do not know how to prevent them, you may, in fact, be spreading them.

We need to educate ourselves about circumstances surrounding our lives. It is not safe to go through life with blinders. There are important issues in Canada and we need to educate ourselves about them.

I know many of us think we are aware. Maybe we are. However, if we are all so aware of violence, sexual diseases and prejudices, why do they continue?

Why are people still being judged by the colour of their skin? Why are people still being abducted, raped and murdered? If we all know so much, why are we still allowing these injustices to continue?

I'm not suggesting we'll be able to change our country by reading a couple of newspapers, but maybe if we took more time to understand, and to absorb, what is going on around us, we might have a safer, healthier country in which to live.

In the world of journalism, columns written by reporters are a unique hybrid.

Stories on regular news pages contain facts, background information, "direct quotes" and proper paraphrasing of sentences, all obtained from reliable sources. Reporters attempt to answer as many of those famous Ws as possible (Who? Where? When? What? Why? and How?). The feelings and opinions of reporters do not belong in their news stories.

Journalists, including those in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, are taught that their reporting must be balanced, fair and as objective as possible. That rule must also exist for columns written by reporters. In columns, the feelings and opinions of reporters are welcome, but balance, fairness and objectivity must never be discarded or treated lightly.

Good columnists must write their personal views while still being fair and objective.

Columns give reporters, including those in the Journalism-Print program, an opportunity to offer their opinions and feelings on a wide range of topics. Good columns should stimulate readers to think about a given subject. Our columns, which are clearly identified as columns, do not reflect the opinions or feelings of the Niagara College administration or the management of the *Niagara News*.

Our columns reflect the opinion of only one person: the writer.

Cultural Exchange

Students in homestays face fee increase

By MISATO ARAI
Staff Writer

International students at Niagara College who live in homestays were recently told the homestay fee is increasing in September, to $490 a month from $450 a month.

Sean Coote, an international student adviser, says the fee is being increased because host families are facing a cost-of-living increase.

This is the first time the homestay fee has increased since he started working at the International Education Department seven years ago. The homestay fee was $450 a month even before he came to the college, he says.

About the odd sum of $490, Coote says, it is "marketing." The tuition fee is $8,900 for international students' post-secondary programs.

Stephanie Soccio-Marandora, international housing co-ordinator, introduces host families to students and manages homestay problems.

For example, Fanshawe College, in London, Ont., charges $540 a month for homestay, while Georgian College, in Barrie, charges $575 a month, and Algonquin College, in Nepean, Ont., charges $600 a month.

Compared with other colleges, Soccio-Marandora says, $490 is "still pretty low."

She says host families offer more than just three meals. They also provide support when the host student encounters culture shock. About "$15 a day to provide a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner for the student of an adult age is not a lot of money. When we look at it that way, I think we felt it's time that families need it (an increase in the fee). However, it's not something that a family would come and say it should be more money," says Soccio-Marandora.

Haibin Chen, 22, of China, has been in a homestay for a year but will move out to share an apartment in September, he says.

Chen says new students and returning students have different thinking on the matter. For new students, a homestay may be good for their adjusting to a new culture or a new language, says Chen. About the fee increase, he says, "In this area, it's too expensive."

However, the reason for his moving out is not the fee increase but his desire to seek a new environment of accommodation, he says. "My homestay is excellent."

Soccio-Marandora says she doesn't think students who live in homestays will move to other types of accommodations because of the fee increase.

"I still think a homestay is the cheapest option and the most economical option for students," she says.

College develops relationship with Chinese educators

By WARAPHAN GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

A Chinese school is opening its doors for Niagara College.

Niagara is going to deliver three programs – Computer Programming, Tourism and International Business, in Shiang Hai, China.

The college has been developing its relationship with Chinese educators for more than three years, and college President Dan Patterson signed an agreement in February when he visited Shiang Hai. The programs will begin to be delivered in September.

Four Chinese teachers from a working session of Shiang Hai Commercial School and Shiang Hai Commercial Polytechnic came to Canada on March 31 and visited the college from April 2 to April 5.

They visited the college to work on some of the project details and do more planning for the fall.

"We have obviously a lot of preparation," says Kyla Pennie, 27, of Port Colborne, an international project specialist at the college. "Our relationship is much stronger now."

Pennie says the Chinese teachers visited all of the college's campuses in Welland, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake to observe the education system. "The goal was to familiarize themselves with Niagara College's delivery style, philosophy of education ... how we teach. We wanted them to be more familiar with their programs."

> *'Our relationship is much stronger now.'*
> *— Kyla Pennie*

About 90 per cent of the programs will be delivered by Chinese teachers. At the end of each semester, a Niagara College professor will go to teach the course in China.

"What they told us is they see that this is a very important link in the education system to provide a high level of practical training," Pennie says.

She says Chinese students will have a choice of taking a regular Chinese program or a Niagara College program. If they choose to take college programs, "they'll study the same subjects as our Niagara College students study here in Canada."

After completing a two-year Niagara College program in Shiang Hai, Pennie says some of those students could come to take post-graduate programs at the college. "It's very important for Niagara College students to have a global opportunity. For a faculty as well, it's wonderful professional development."

Pennie says the college is looking into the possibility of Canadian students going to work and study in China. "Well, study would be difficult. Maybe we can find work placements."

The relationship between Chinese and Niagara College educators started three years ago when college staff travelled to Shiang Hai.

Pennie says college officials have communicated through e-mails "all the time" for years.

This is the first time the Chinese officials have visited Canada.

"I think they had a very nice time," says Pennie, adding the Chinese got a better understanding of Niagara College's approach to vocational education. "I think they took home a lot of ideas."

> *'We began to trust each other more and to rely on each other. That's very nice.'*
> *— Kyla Pennie*

"This (the international joint project) is very new for Niagara, so we're learning from them, from the project they've already completed."

Pennie says college officials learned about China by reading many articles, but many things in China are changing quickly. She says the Chinese are "quite informal and relaxed."

"You can't always believe everything you read about a certain culture."

As the main contact that spent every day with the Chinese teachers while they were here, Pennie says the relationship moved from a business one to a friendship. "We began to trust each other more and to rely on each other. That's very nice."

Starting the project in September means Pennie will go to China at the end of May. The faculty members are going to China in August and November.

Pennie says Chinese students who decide to take the International Business program want to see different faces and get different professors. "We need to support these programs."

Signing away at the Seaway!

Journalism-Print program graduate Gordana Pirker-Mosher (centre), author of The Best of Croatian Cooking, published in September, signs books at the Seaway Mall in Welland on April 7. Co-author Liliana Pavicia (right) also signed autographs and spoke to the public.

Photo by Sean F. Taylor

ESL offers new experience

By CHRISTINA COLLI
Staff Writer

Niagara College's English as Second Language (ESL) program is designed for international visa students, offering them a chance to experience college life and learn a new language.

The ESL program at the college's Welland campus admits about 120 new full-time students each year from all over the world.

Gaby Solorzano, of Venezuela, is in her first semester at the college and says she loves it.

"I had only planned to be here for just four months, But now I want to say here longer." says Solorzano, 22.

Koji Mine, of Japan, says he too likes the college.

It is Mine's first year at Niagara. He is in Level 1 (the beginner level) of the ESL program and says he does not speak English well.

"I have made many friends here," says Mine, 23. "I am having fun."

Ranko Nakagawa, also from Japan, says she has made "a lot of friends from different countries."

"I like it here, but sometimes it's boring because I don't have a car," says 20-year-old Nakagawa. "There are a lot of outdoor things to do here in Canada. I like that."

"I went to university in Japan, but it was not interesting," she says. "I wanted to learn English."

The ESL program includes classes that focus on speaking, pronunciation, reading, writing and cultural adaptation.

Nakagawa says she likes her classes and is learning a lot about "writing, reading and reasoning in English."

Upon successful completion of the program, students are guaranteed automatic entry to most of the post-secondary programs at Niagara.

"I'm not sure what to do when I am finished here," says Mine.

"I want to go to a university in Ontario and get my bachelor of arts (degree)." Solorzano says. "This country is beautiful and the people are great."

She says she chose this college because of the reputation that Canadians are nice people and speak English well.

Niagara's international students have the option to live in a homestay. A homestay is a residential option, where international students can live with a Canadian family who provide a fully furnished room, meals and a chance to practice English.

Solorzano, Mine and Nakagawa each live with a host family in Welland.

"I don't feel so lonely living with them," says Solorzano.

All three students say they miss their friends and family back home.

"At first I missed them a lot," says Nakagawa. "Now I enjoy school so much, it's not so bad."

"I'm having so much fun here," says Solorzano. "I've made so many friends, it's like a long vacation."

HOME ON THE CAMPUS

Night auditor happy with job, but nights lonely

By KAREN WALKER
Staff Writer

For most people, an average workday starts at 7 a.m. For Elizabeth Goulden, her day at this time is almost ending.

Goulden, 24, who has lived in Welland all of her life, works as a night auditor at the Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre.

Goulden, who works from Sunday to Thursday, from midnight to 8 a.m., says she found out about the job in the newspaper.

"I saw the chance to work around and meet different people, which is something I have always wanted to do," says Goulden.

As a night auditor, Goulden says there are many different responsibilities involved in her job.

"My main responsibility while I am working is to make sure by 8 a.m. (when her shift ends) that everyone in the building is safe and everything is taken care of."

While taking care of the building, she is responsible for security and for the auditing.

"I crunch out numbers. I basically make sure all the money has come in for the day and that it goes into the proper accounts."

She says working at the residence was a "brand-new experience" for her and she had the chance to meet many different students who attend Niagara College.

"I have met people from all over the place, some from different cultures, like Jordan Hollis from Bermuda. I wouldn't have met him unless I was here."

Goulden says the reason she likes her job so much is 99 per cent because of the students.

"The students here are likeable and keep me on my toes — even at 4 a.m."

Goulden, who says she has an interest in counselling, adds that it's satisfying to go home knowing you've made a difference in someone's life, especially if someone comes to her with a problem.

"If I can make an imprint on someone's life or have the student remember what I've done, I've helped."

With every job, there are pros and cons, yet Goulden says there isn't any aspect she would change of her job.

"I am very happy with my job, but with the hours I work, it can get lonely," she says. "During the day, people come in and out, but not at 4 a.m., they don't."

The Niagara College Residence has 114 suites on three floors and houses about 200 students throughout the school year.

Goulden says it can sometimes be "nerve-racking" in the building at night.

"It's a lot of trust to be put in one person, to keep an eye on the building at these hours."

Although Goulden says she is happy where she works now, she doesn't want to work there for the rest of her life.

"I know I want to work around young adults," she says. "This job helps me work on my counselling skills, which will lead to what I want to be : a counsellor."

Goulden has a seven-year-old daughter, Julia, about whom she says, "Raising her is my No. 1 priority."

She says this job has given her a chance to see the student residents try hard to grow as people.

Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre is at Niagara College's Welland campus. The residence houses more than 200 students. During summer months the residence rents out rooms each night.

Photo by Valerie Paquette

"I've seen it all: the students making friends, having relationships, the hardship of money situations. It's really hard to do in today's society."

Goulden says when she is at the residence, she "feels needed."

"The job not only provides for my family, but I've met some great co-workers and friends."

Goulden has worked in her position since last September and says she feels "moving up in this company would be nice."

"While I am working, I feel I get to interact in the lives of others, which feels pretty good."

RA labelled 'bad guy' for being rule enforcer

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

For Mike Osburn, working means being on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and being a full-time friend and mentor.

Osburn, 23, is a resident adviser (RA) at the Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre at the Welland campus.

"It's unlike any other job," said Osburn. "I'm playing a very multi-dimensional role. I'm responsible for the students' safety and well-being, and I'm also acting as their counsellor and their friend."

After graduating from high school in his hometown of Collingwood, Ont., in 1996, Osburn said he worked in a factory for two years. He then attended Humber College in Etobicoke, for one year in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. (BRTF)

He came to Niagara College in September 2000 as a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program.

"I applied to be an RA because I had a lot of experience in leadership and peer counselling in high school, which involved helping younger students through such issues as self-esteem, drinking, drugs, etc. It was something I was good at and enjoyed doing."

In order to become qualified as a RA, Osburn said students must undergo a week of intensive training and seminars on how to deal with depression, suicide assessment, drug and alcohol addiction and sexuality.

"I get to act as an authority figure in the residence, but on a unique level because I'm in the same age group as the students," he said. "I'm there to help make the transition from high school to college easier and enjoyable, to help students deal with problems and to enforce rules."

However, Osburn said being a RA is not all fun and games. Rather, it's a job that involves a lot of stress, pressure and little recognition.

"It's hard to juggle school, a personal life and being an RA all at the same time." Osburn said he has become more efficient in time-management skills.

As a RA, Osburn said he lives in the residence free and is paid about $75 a week.

"You can't be in it for the money, because the financial reimbursement is nothing in comparison to the work you do," he said. "You have to be in it for the experience and because it's something you love doing."

Photo by Katie MacKimmie

MIKE OSBURN

Osburn said there are many aspects about being a RA that he does not enjoy, such as being the "bad guy."

"Eighty per cent of the time I'm enforcing rules, calling in noise complaints and breaking up parties, which a lot of students resent me for," he said.

Osburn said the other 20 per cent of his time is the rewarding part. "When people come to me to talk about their problems and I can help them through it, that makes me feel good."

He said by being a RA, he has learned to be a better communicator and listener.

"It's very rewarding to know you have made a difference in someone's life, just by being there to talk."

As for the future, Osburn plans to enrol in the BRTF program next year and possibly continue as a RA at the residence.

"My experience as an RA has prepared me for any situation in life, whatever hand I am dealt."

Residence life not quite as crazy as movie Animal House

By KATIE BAIN
Staff Writer

First-year Niagara College students say living in residence is fun, but you aren't missing out on a big part of the school experience if you don't live at the Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre at the Welland campus.

"Residence is convenient but it is nothing special," says Erin McKenna, 19, a General Arts and Science program student at the college's Welland campus. "I was excited to live in residence and party all the time, but things are pretty quiet here."

Shannon Baylis, 19, a Pharmacy Technician program student at the Welland campus, lives in a house about 10 minutes away from the college and says she loves it.

"Residence is nice because it is close to the school and the pub, but I like living in a house. I get my own fully equipped kitchen, and the rules I have to live with aren't as strict," says Baylis.

"I watched the movie Animal House and thought that residence life would be like that. No way. The rules are really enforced here. We can't have beer bottles, we can't be loud and we can't sign in more than two people at a time," says McKenna.

Baylis says that she pays $225 a month, not including her bills for telephone, heating and water, gas for her car and bus money.

"It is a pain having to drive or take the bus when my car breaks down, but I get to have my friends over whenever and not have to pay for them."

Baylis is referring to the $5 charge to students in the residence for each sleepover guest. Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre doesn't allow more than two sleepovers in a row.

McKenna says she paid $3,700 in the summer for her full eight months in the residence, or about $480 a month. "I paid in full and only get a phone bill. The way I see it is I am saving money in residence. I am only paying for an eight-month lease instead of 12, and I feel safer here. It would be really hard for someone off the street to break into my room. I am impressed with the security here. So are my parents."

"I wanted to live in the residence but I was put on a waiting list, so I found a house and it has been great," says Baylis.

"I am probably going to live in a house next semester because I've met some people who want to do that, but all of the houses we've looked at tell us we have to start paying rent in May. That is four months of paying rent while I'm living and working at home," says McKenna, who has a job in Burlington and will be living in her parents' home for the summer.

Financially, Baylis says she chose a house because she can take each month to make $225, instead of having to pay all at once.

THE BEAT IS ON

Nothing too extreme for Danimal

By SARA CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

Dan Paulin has been a 97.7 HTZ FM listener since the station first started and that's when he became interested in their extreme contest.

He says he knew, as a tattoo and piercing artist, what could hurt him and what couldn't. "I was confident that I could do more than anyone else."

The first extreme contest Paulin says he attended was a nine-day trip in the Arctic to party with bands Metallica, Moist, Hole and Veruca Salt. "It was presented by Molson, so they took good care of the contestants, and I wanted to go, so I made sure that I won."

"For the first contest I covered my body with leeches, cleaned them off after about an hour, first. Then, I dressed up in a hot pink gorilla outfit and walked down the street handing out bumper stickers. At that point, we stripped myself back down and a guy dressed up like Barney shot me in the back about 10 times with a paint ball gun. To top it all off, I nailed my tongue to a tree."

Paulin says the second contest was for $5,000. "I made a small cage and put 97 rats in the cage. I covered my body with molasses and trail mix and went into the cage and had the rats eat it off my body. Then we took piercing sharps and pierced 97.7 HTZ FM on my chest, and then they poured alcohol all over me." He says he still wasn't sure he had won.

Paulin says how he comes up with ideas is that he tries to think of the most extreme thing he could do and then take it to the next level. "Realistically, I don't want to compete, but I don't want to lose," he says, adding, "I want to make sure it's something no one else would possibly do."

He says by the second contest there were more extreme people. "They knew what they had to try to beat, so I had to go further than that, but wait till the next time." Paulin says he won't reveal any secret plans for future challenges.

Since 97.7 HTZ needed a promotion manager, Paulin says, the station hired him on as their "promotions freak."

"I went on the road doing Freak on a Leash tours with Korn, Limp Bizkit and Metallica. We would do crazy things outside the stadium, in preparation for the show." Paulin says he adapted the name Danimal or Dan the Man during the tour.

Paulin became host of his own radio show, called Double Dog Dare Dan Fridays. "We would do some crazy, wacky things." At one of the shows, Paulin says, everybody in the audience had firecrackers. They held them like bazookas and shot them at him. In another instance, he once filled a kiddie pool with maggots and sat in it.

He says from that point he got his own weekend show on the radio, The Hangover Cafe. He says he then worked his way up to producer and co-host of the morning show.

Paulin says he never had a great interest working in radio. "I pretty much just wanted to do crazy things for tickets, but after being involved I liked all the opportunities it gave me."

Paulin says another memorable moment was being on stage at Edgefest in 1999. "I was on stage with the Foofighter and Dave Grill was playing his guitar through my tongue. Paul Wilcox from Moist nailed me to a board through my wrist."

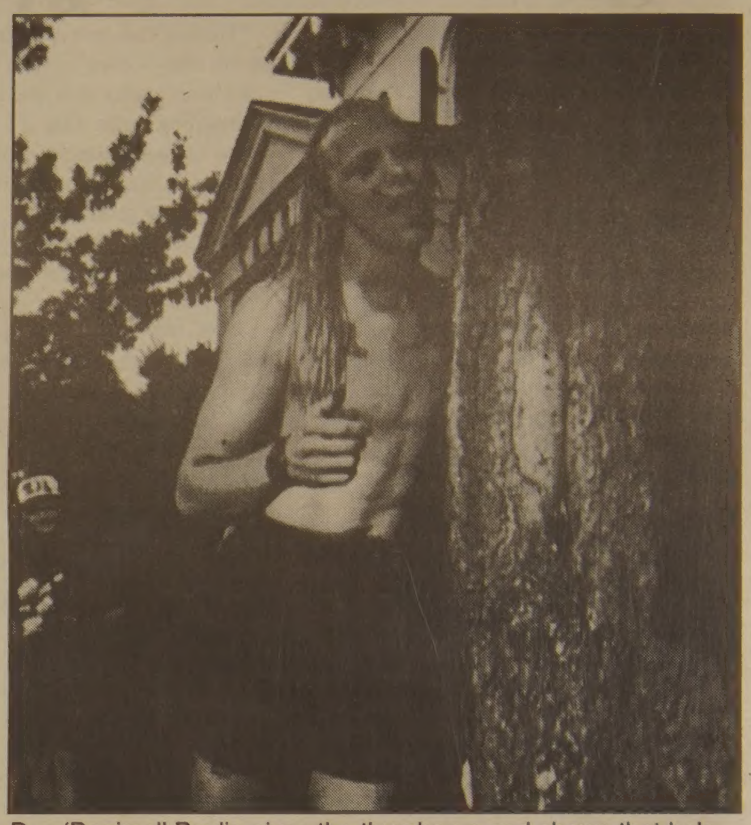
He says he met a lot of interesting people and found out how much hard work stars do to entertain their audience. "Obviously, doing these extreme things, I got a very small amount of celebrity status. I was on many radio stations and newspapers across Canada and the United States. After doing my first extreme contest, I had calls from all over the world for interviews."

Paulin says he worked for 3-1/2 years with HTZ FM. "In my opinion, there is no better job than co-host and producer of your own show. I thought I was at the top. I had a huge show. I couldn't imagine where I could go from there, but there is no money in radio. The money they offered wouldn't compare to owning your own business. We have three tattoo shops and we are still growing. Four more are on the works."

He says he is in an extreme place of business. "The types of things I do are my character, part of my personality. I like doing it because it's fun."

Paulin says he sees people doing these extreme things as their only way to become a type of celebrity. "A lot of people whom I have done contests with have never been on the radio. Many have backed down because of crowds. The majority of people do it because it's their five minutes of fame. Out of 10 people, about four were really freaks or just had issues, but the others weren't necessarily prepared for what they were getting into.

"Your memory exceeds the actual event, just like the person that runs down the street naked for the $8 T-shirt. Every time they tell that story…it's going to seem unbelievable again and again, and I love to amaze people."



Dan 'Danimal' Paulin gives the thumbs up and shows that he's fine after nailing his tongue to a tree for a 97.7 HTZ FM extreme contest.

Submitted photo

He says the favourite extreme thing he did was the second contest. "I was pretty sure I was going to win, but when I said I was going to nail my balls to a board, the crowd *went silent," says Paulin, adding,* "There was no clapping or cheering. Everyone just looked at me in horror. I hammered the first nail through and the crowd went wild. I was so caught up in it, I said, 'Do you want me to do another?' and they said, 'Yes.'"

Earth moves when Quake scratches for raves

By COLIN W. GIBSON
Staff Writer

In the light of the deejay booth, DJ Quake stands by his two Technic 1200 turntables, preparing for his night.

DJ Quake was born as Salvatore Pennessa. At age 21, he is one of the best DJs in town. He has always lived in Niagara Falls, Ont. He went to LaSalle High School and graduated from Niagara College as an electrician.

Quake has been "scratching" since age nine on a Gemini turntable. When asked about his influences, Quake said, "My father, actually."

His father was a radio deejay who also played in clubs, halls and schools. He deejayed at 101FM the River, 96.1FM, and 104FM. "He's run stations in Rochester and Candego, N.Y," said Quake.

> *'It's all about the music.' — DJ Quake*

DJ Quake has played at the Warehouse in Toronto two times and at other places in Toronto many times.

"(For) my next gig, they're flying my buddy DJ Sketch and me to a place about three hours away from Montreal. It's the best feeling (doing a rave) because you know everyone is there to have fun and watch you."

Quake first started working at a weekly night club that didn't serve alcohol. "I played strictly hip-hop. It was all teenage kids on a Saturday night," said Quake. He was first introduced to techno by a "mistake track," *Perfect Things* by Partytime.

"Raves are different," said Quake. "They used to be all underground. Now they're all advertised and are attracting the wrong people. There are people who can go out and have fun and don't have to do the drugs. I don't do the drugs and I love the music."

When asked about other deejays, Quake said, "Everybody has his or her own style and I respect everybody . . . It's all about the music."

His favourite type of music is the "evil, bassy sound, "said Quake. "The bass is killer, like **Weekend** by Bad Habit Boys." When asked what "evil bassy" is, Quake said, "It kicks you in the butt, whether you like techno or not," he added.

Quake described "train-tracking as switching beats from track to track perfectly." This involves matching the highs and lows, or what he calls the "booms and chings." A trademark move is "I'll spin on my back and mix it up. The crowd loves it."

Quake has played with Bad Boy Bill, DJ Sketch and Sandra Davis, who "is hard-core," he says. "She uses four turntables. It's hard because you've got to be spinning all over the place."

He and DJ Sketch have an idea to "mix and match" each other on the turntables for a CD, "something like DJ Sketch versus DJ Quake," said Quake.

Quake's father owns a production company, and Quake said he hopes to produce a couple of CDs. He's aiming for 30 tracks within the next year.

Quake said that his "favourite" memory was a gig called SoundKraft in Syracuse, N.Y. There he played beside Bad Boy Bill and DJ Sketch. "You stand right when the other deejay is done. You stand right up, you put your headphones on, you have your turntables all set up, and you get this look. During a rave, having thousands of people, you look down and it's like a wave of water. Everyone is there to watch you play." At SoundKraft, he played before 23,000 people.

For now, Pennessa works 40 hours a week as an electrician and twice a week as a deejay. "I'll continue deejaying forever," said Quake, adding he would "probably own a night club."

Heat awareness event benefits kidney foundation

By CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN
Staff Writer

Students of the Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program turned up the heat in Welland on March 28.

Niagara College's campus radio station held an "Awareness Day" in the Simcoe building for the station, which recently adopted the name the Heat 90.1 FM.

At the event, BRTF students gave away eight CDs and a dinner for two at Crabby Joe's, on Niagara Street, in Welland. They also raised $50 for the Kidney Foundation of Canada through selling "lifesavers" to passing students.

With a donation of $2, students were given a paper facsimile of a Lifesavers candy, which were signed by the students and put on display in the Simcoe building.

Vanessa Babb, a second-year BRTF student and program director for 90.1 FM, says they wanted to raise between $50 and $100, but understood that students are "strapped for cash." The on-air personalities called various college officials during their live broadcast of the event, soliciting donations and raising awareness for the event.

Although he was not able to attend, Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, told listeners over the telephone he would donate $5 to the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

The radio station began broadcasting outside of the college last December, but had never adopted a name.

"Most other radio stations have them (names)," says Babb, 28, of Conception Bay, Nfld. "We want to change our image, so we can have catchy slogans."

The Heat can be heard in a broadcast area extending just beyond the Welland campus.

"The staff before us did a good job," says Babb, of getting the radio station off the ground. "Now we want to boost listenership."

Babb says she feels that not a lot of students are aware of the radio station.

MILITARY MEMORIES

Students help preserve military history

By REBECCA MARCHILDON
Staff Writer

Three students at Niagara College have thousands of years of history at their fingertips.

Mike Allan, Stacee Richardson and Troy Huisman, all in the Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) program, have volunteered to spend the next three years, at least, archiving information dating back to the 1700s for the Lincoln and Welland Regiment's military museum.

"Nothing like this has ever been done in Canada," says Dave Robinson, program co-ordinator.

Regimental Major Gary Guitard says he decided to create a partnership with the college for this long-term project after attending an open house presentation of the multimedia students' work last year.

"One of the eye-opening aspects at that time was an open house display at which they were demonstrating Flash technology with relation to computer graphics, animation . . . the capability of projecting an image. When I saw what they were capable of doing, it automatically sprang to mind that that's what we want."

"Major Guitard approached one of our teachers at that time and we met and decided we had to put a plan together for it as best we could," says Robinson.

Allan, 38, was the first recipient of a scholarship the Lincoln and Welland Regiment offered in his program. Guitard says that Allan, who was part of the unit (Lincoln and Welland Regiment) from 1980 to 1986 and then again from 1990 to 1993, got the project started by suggesting that everyone "get together."

"Mike is the first link and the liaison between both the college and the foundation and regiment," says Guitard.

Allan, of St. Catharines, says he was looking for two more people to help because "it's a big project for one person."

"What ended up happening was we had something that truly needed to get done but were incapable of doing and that's basically databasing all of our information," says Guitard.

"We don't ever want to lose the original information."

Robinson says that Richardson and Huisman were likely candidates because of their "technical skills."

"Mike needed two other people. He had a pretty good idea they (Richardson and Huisman) were good. We didn't need to have people that needed handholding and that sort of thing, so they were really capable."

Richardson and Huisman agreed to participate and official work on the project began in September 2000.

"It's great to have this kind of partnership, one that you can see is long-term, that is going to grow, that is going to get stronger; and it's not just busy work, it's real work, it's valuable work and it's a valuable learning experience for students," says Robinson.

He says he is "cutting them (the students) a few breaks" as far as course curriculum goes. He says that included in a week of his course is 20 hours of class and about 20 hours of homework. He also added that most students have jobs at which they work another 20 hours.

"It's an extremely demanding course so for us to be doing this (project) as well as a full course load and a job, we run out of time, so he's (Robinson) giving us some breaks," says Huisman, 29, of St. Catharines.

Richardson, Allan and Huisman all say they would like to continue working on the project after they graduate.

"That's actually the big reason why I want to stay on this after school is finished because I haven't been able to put that much time into it and it's a big project, it's pretty exciting so I would like to stay on afterward when I actually have the time," says Huisman.

Richardson, of Chippawa, says she's looking forward to "when it's not just rushing to get things done."

Meeting at the museum are: (from left) Mike Allan, Stacee Richardson, Troy Huisman, Dave Robinson and Regimental Major Gary Guitard.

Photo by Rebecca Marchildon

The project was originally estimated to take about three years to complete; however, Robinson says, he thinks it will take longer and Guitard expects it will end "probably never."

"There's something strange about this multi-media business. When we're at school we can be creative and do all these wonderful things so when you sit down and you say, 'I've got to produce this graphic look and maybe get a couple of screens up, it should take me a half an hour,' and then you start playing with the tools and editing the graphics, next thing you know four or five hours have gone by and you really haven't accomplished anything. It takes a lot of discipline and a lot of planning to know exactly what you want because you can play forever. So we're probably working a little bit slower because we're experimenting," says Robinson.

The information the students are archiving was kept at the Niagara Falls Armory in 1994 and didn't move to its new location, the upper level of the museum in Butler's Barracks in Niagara-on-the-Lake, until October 1999. It was "suffering some damage," says Robinson. "In a few years it would be completely destroyed."

The students meet every Thursday at the museum and are paid minimum wage by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment for the time they spend there.

They have almost completed the museum's Web page and plan on having it posted as soon as next week.

"We have the basis of it. We're just filling in the content and pictures," says Richardson, 22.

Guitard says the new Web page fits in with future plans for the museum.

"We'd like to set up a series of computers (in the upper level of the museum) which will allow us to separate the two rooms. What we hope to be able to do with it, through multimedia and Flash technology, is incorporate a visual and an audio record of the unit so that people can go upstairs, basically hit a find button and a page will come up that will say 'Lincoln and Welland' and it will have eight or 10 subjects around it, and I'm only paraphrasing what I've already seen, what Niagara College has been able to accomplish, and it fits my goal to a tee. If a person is looking for relatives or a member of the reserves in the Lincoln and Welland Regiment then they'll be able to hit 'members,'" says Guitard.

"We want to get a profile of ourselves so that we have a chance to grow. One of the things that the army has realized is that we can't do the (United Nations) jobs that we need to do unless we're going to expand."

Guitard says he'd eventually like to increase the number of students working on the project to "maybe four, maybe six." He says that every two years a full scholarship, including books and a computer, will be granted to a student in the Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) program based on the student's need for financial assistance.

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment would like to "continue yearly internships," says Guitard.

"This May 27, which is a repeat date of our original opening (in 2000), we'll have a re-opening. Every year we'll have a re-opening with a different theme. This year's theme will be the Second World War and we'll have an open house barbecue," says Guitard.

Entry into the museum is free but a donation is appreciated.

"What you get for your donation is actually a three-page foldout and it tells the history of the unit, what the unit is doing ... it's like a giant brochure," says Guitard.

Money-making smiles

Tory Niagara Falls MPP Bart Maves (left), Brenda Herchmer, manager of Niagara Centre for Community Leadership, Tory Erie–Lincoln MPP Tim Hudak and Niagara College President Dan Patterson pose with a $17,000 cheque on March 23 in the Corporate Training room at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Both MPPs were on hand to award the Community Volunteer Summit grant from the Ministry of Citizenship to the centre housed at the Welland campus, recognizing the International Year of Volunteers and the local launch of Ontario's Promise, a new initiative challenging individuals, non-profit agencies, corporations and government to work together to ensure Ontario's youth receive the care and tools to become successful adults. The grant will aid the centre in working with various regional partners to unite the business, volunteer and government sectors to produce ways to improve the lives of everyone in the community.

Photo by Paul Finelli

HOME IMPROVEMENT

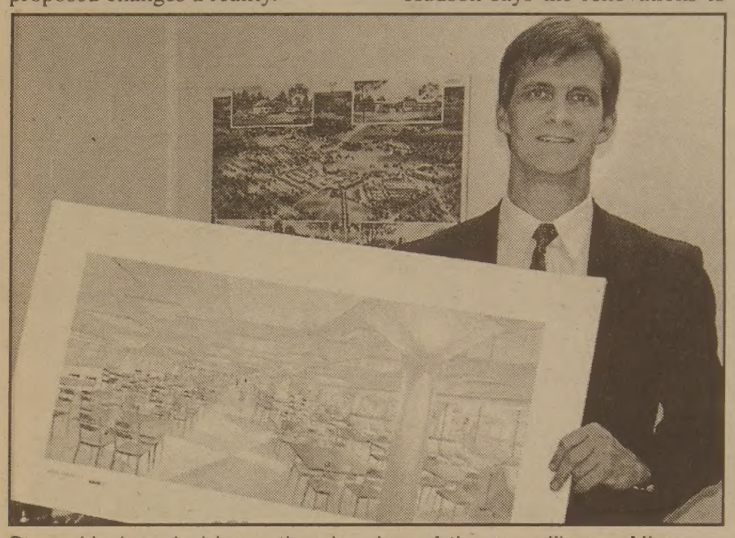
Welland campus ready for renovations

Library, Mackenzie, Black Walnut all undergoing 'significant' changes

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

Come September, the Welland campus at Niagara College will have undergone "significant" renovations.

Steve Hudson, vice-president of corporate services, is one of the people responsible for making the proposed changes a reality.



Steve Hudson holds up the drawing of the new library. Niagara College will have a $2.1-million budget to build it.

Photo by Rob Luciani

"In the Welland campus there are three big projects that we are doing this summer," says Hudson, who has been working at the college for eight months.

"We are renovating a significant portion of the Mackenzie building, the whole centre of the building between the welding bays and the gym. The majority of the centre of the building will be renovated. It will be air-conditioned, new classrooms created and new offices for some programs we will be moving there."

All of the renovations will begin immediately after the second semester concludes in late April and go through August, says Hudson.

"One of the other things that we are building in Mackenzie as a result of the renovations is another kind of lounge and coffee shop-type space. That will be right across from the gym so that during sporting events we will have a place for people to sit down."

Hudson says the renovations to all the buildings will "meet the needs of the particular program" and Mackenzie "will be a lot more usable building when finished."

The college budget for renovations to the Mackenzie building is "around $700,000," says Hudson.

"The second project is the Black Walnut building. We are renovating what is currently the cafeteria and kitchen area, the Art and Design (Fundamentals–Graphic Design Production) programs along with Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) and (Professional) Screenwriting (Post-graduate) will be moved into what is now the cafeteria and kitchen area."

Black Walnut, which has been neglected over the years, will "basically be as close to a new building as we can get for what is otherwise a fairly old building," says Hudson. Alterations to Black Walnut include "new ventilation systems, new walls, air-conditioning and the existing low bay portion of the building will be demolished," will have a budget of $300,000, says Hudson.

"In the main complex, we're looking at starting renovations for the library and cafeteria. Over the summer, the kitchen itself will be rebuilt largely in the corridor space between the Hamilton Room and the doors on the east-side of the building."

The cafeteria, in the Black Walnut building, will be relocated in what is now the library to "look like a completely different space from the library's perspective when finished," says Hudson.

"The entrance of the library will be moved and there will be a new staircase. A lot of the renovations will be done in the library itself. Concrete (will be) removed, the lighting will be changed ... basically everything inside the existing library will be renovated. When we're finished it will be a main floor and a lower floor only. It will be much more flat and much more open."

The renovated cafeteria "will seat around 370 students in the upper area and we should be able to get seating for 30 to 40 in the lower area" for a capacity around 400, says Hudson.

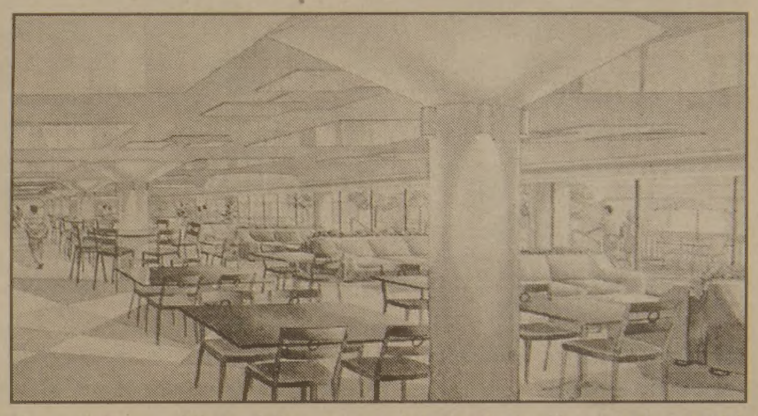
"We've got a budget for the library and cafeteria of about $2.1 million. As we go through and fine tune ... we will get a better feel if we can do everything we want and make it as absolutely great as we would like it to be."

Hudson says plans for this project stepped into "high gear" one month ago.

"One of the things that's really exciting that we're looking at doing is the wall that looks over Manera Court right now, we will be cutting it out and putting in floor-to-ceiling windows."

Students will be able to take stairs down into Manera Court directly from the cafeteria, says Hudson.

"It's an ability to incorporate Manera Court to get a higher level of utilization of it by students. We don't think we will be able to have the actual seating cafeteria open for September just because of the amount of work we will have to get done in that time. Certainly the kitchen, the new front entrance for the library and ventilation systems should be done by September."



An artist's rendition of the new cafeteria that will seat about 400 students in the upper and lower areas.

Submitted photo

Hudson says the library is expected to be completed and back in operation by September; however, "it will be a tight push" as there's a lot of work to be done.

"The big issues facing us are time, because all the spaces we will be renovating are already occupied. We have to let the semester finish before we start."

The closure of the library will not affect those students attending Niagara during the summer. The library will be setting up "a small, temporary library in a room behind the Hamilton Room" which will give access to students.

Piraino + Raimondo Associates is the architecture firm who completed the designs with the college for the new cafeteria, says Hudson.

"Piraino + Raimondo is the company that also designed the student gathering space last time and already knew what we needed. We were able to short cycle a lot of the design time (by consulting with Piraino + Raimondo)."

Hudson says plans to renovate and double the capacity of Maid of the Mist campus (MMC) in Niagara Falls remain a topic of concern.

"What we changed is that we originally targeted a September 2002 opening and we've moved that back a year to open in September 2003, for a couple of factors."

Currently, enrolment at the MMC is "about 350 students," but the college would like that number to grow to 700 and "with the apprenticeship programs, all the programs located at MMC would have around 800 to 850 students in total," says Hudson.

"The construction costs are very high right now. We hope that they will level off or drop. The other (factor) is the overall cost of the project has gone up. When we looked at the design of the building in detail, we ended up having to do a lot more renovations than we thought we were going to have to do. That's generated some costs that we just don't have the money for right now."

With the project being deferred for another year, the time will enable the college to "look at fund-raising opportunities" and if they need to do everything they had originally planned, says Hudson.

"We really needed two summers to finish it. We had to move it a full year if we were going to move it at all. We looked at that as the most logical thing to do when we ran across the problems."

Hudson says the project cost has increase by $2.5 million because of the unsuspected factors they now face.

"The total forecast of the project at this point, if we do everything that we originally told the province we would do, plus do everything that people said we should do when we were doing all the renovations, is about $9.3 million. The province has given us $4.3 million of what we originally thought was going to be around a $6.8-million project."

The extra year also gives the college a chance to "look at all the positions" possible.

Renovations to the Welland campus library at Niagara College will begin at the end of April. The new design will make the library more open with a main and lower floor.

Photo by Rob Luciani

Renovations scheduled for the Welland campus:

- The cafeteria, currently in Black Walnut, will be rebuilt in the library beside Manera Court. The library will be renovated.
- The Black Walnut building will remove the kitchen and cafeteria; three programs will relocate there.
- The Mackenzie building's centre portion will be renovated, new classes and offices will be built and also a lounge will be built directly across from the gym.

On the Move

Quality a first choice at Niagara College

By CASSANDRA SCAPILLATI
Staff Writer

Take a look in the computer labs at your Niagara College campus. Notice any change?

About 80 signs are being put up in all areas with computers at the college's campuses in Welland, at Glendale in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

These computer-cut vinyl-lettering signs outline the general conduct that is expected of college students while using the college's computers.

Mike Koschok, 18, and Jackie Kuyvenhoven, 19, both of St. Catharines, work for Spotlight Signs, of St. Catharines, the company that has taken on this sign-hanging job. Kuyvenhoven, who has completed high school, says she has been working with the campaign off and on for about three years.

Koschok has been working with the company full time since the end of June. He says his favourite part of the job is "driving the company van."

Spotlight Signs is at 47 Herrick Ave., in St. Catharines. The company has been in operation for 13 years, helping Southern Ontario's businesses gain exposure through a professional image, their signs. Services offered by the company include design, manufacturing, installations and service.

Darrin Wills, president and founder of Spotlight Signs, started the business in 1987 while working in the engineering field. He says he worked both jobs for several years until the sign business had grown enough to leave the other job behind.

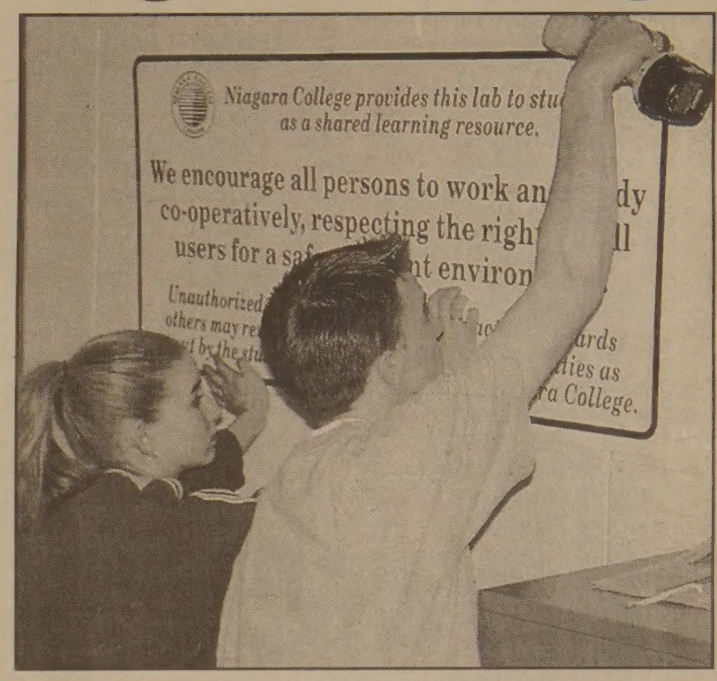
Wills is a graduate of Niagara College's Mechanical Engineering Technician program. He was a student from 1983 to 1985.

In an e-mail interview, Wills says, "Getting on the vendor list and doing several jobs for two of the local school boards led me to think that Niagara College may be a good potential client as well, so I contacted them."

"After getting on their vendor list by providing references and commercial liability insurance documents, we (the company) were awarded jobs based on having the lowest price bid."

He says the company continues to get orders from the college on a regular basis because of its consistent pricing and commitment to quality and service. The company does all types of signs, from the largest commercial application to small real estate signs, banners and vehicle graphics. Some of its major clients include Nabisco, McDonald's, Wendy's, Tim Hortons and the Walt Disney Company.

Wills says, "The types of signs that we do for the college are typical of our daily work in the Niagara region."



Jackie Kuyvenhoven, 19, and Mike Koschok, 18, installing a sign for Spotlight Signs Inc.

Photo by Cassandra Scapillati

New facilities may cost too much for Niagara

By CINDY DASHNAY
Staff Writer

James Keir, 18, of Welland, says he is happy to see more facilities coming to Niagara College, but thinks it took too long and will cost too much.

Keir, a first-year student in the Computer Programmer/Analyst program, says what attracted him to Niagara College were the area and the feedback from former students.

"I love the fact that Niagara College is so close to Niagara Falls and St. Catharines because they are bigger cities and have many attractions, and tourism in both since Welland sucks."

Keir says he periodically reads the *Niagara News*, which is produced by second-year Journalism-Print program students at the college. "In last week's edition, I heard about the YMCA coming to Niagara College. I am very happy that they are bringing it to the college because it is so far away in Welland to get to by foot. The YMCA might not be there when I am at the college, but I know it will be an attraction for many to come."

Keir says the new Niagara Regional Police Services' shooting range building, being built at the Welland campus, is a good idea, but might take away money for other programs or things that can be brought here for the students, such as bands with which students are familiar.

"I'm not saying that Niagara College doesn't do anything for the students, but I think that they can do more things to get students involved. There is nothing really to do at the school for fun in our spare time. If you are like me, your schedule is really bad and you have three-hour breaks in between classes, and for most students, they don't live in Welland and have to stay at school all day doing nothing."

> ***'I'm glad the college is getting all these things (facilities). Don't get me wrong.'***
> ***— James Keir***

Keir says bringing in the new YMCA will be convenient for people to use in their spare time, but it might come with a cost. For a student, the YMCA already costs $30 a month. With the facilities being built at the school, he fears tuition might go up, he says. "I'm glad the college is getting all these things. Don't get me wrong. I think it's cool that Niagara College will be the first college to do something like this. I just feel that it's going to cost the students way too much to have these facilities put at the school when most students won't even use them."

About a month ago, students had to fill out surveys for the provincial Key Performance Indicators about satisfaction with the college and its programs.

Keir says he got the impression that if he ranked the school with a good mark, the college would get more funds and would be able to give the students more. "I marked the school as I thought it ought to be. I don't like to lie unless I really have to, even if it will provide the school with more funds. I like Niagara College primarily for its location, nothing else. I am disappointed in my overall experience at Niagara College, and I am planning on returning to North Bay to further my education at Canadore College," says Keir.

The recent Student Administrative Council (SAC) election was a disappointment for him. "I was disappointed in the recent election because there was no student input on who was to become SAC. I never even heard anything about elections until they were already over."

Keir says he rates the college as satisfactory in its ability to teach, but rates it poorly for student activities.

"The school will have to try a little harder to get students more involved so they can stand out above other colleges such as Canadore College or any other of the remaining 23 colleges."

Shuttle service could be available for springtime, summer students

By JENNIFER PICKETT
Staff Writer

A new means of transportation is being provided for the spring and summer term students.

Niagara College is working with local transportation companies to set up a shuttle system.

The local "hub" bus service, which connects Thorold, Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines at Brock University in St. Catharines, stops running for its usual summer shutdown on April 27. This is caused by a lack of students who attend school in the spring and summer. Niagara College has about 400 riders on the hub.

There was a survey sent to all January-Start students at Niagara College in March to find out how many students take the bus to school. It came back with 40 students interested in the shuttle service.

Brigitte Chiki, director of student services at the Welland campus, said, "We want to provide a service that is efficient."

She is waiting to get a confirmed participation from a transit company.

The shuttle will begin its service on May 7 and operate until July 27. It will make two runs a day, at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:30 p.m.

She advises students to make the most of their time if they have to stay at the college to wait for a bus. "Use your time wisely when you're at school," said Chiki. "Do your studying or your homework. Then the rest of the night is yours."

The shuttle will operate from the campus to the terminals. Students must get a term pass. Although a specific price has not been set, the cost will be about $250 to $350. A bus bursary is available at financial aid for those who qualify. Region Niagara is looking into a more permanent solution to the poorly interacting transit systems. A regional transportation task force has been organized to examine the issue. Niagara College has been invited to be a member. The task force wants to find out "what works, what doesn't and how do we make it work," says Chiki.

For more information on this service or to get a copy of the survey, contact Lou DiMattio in Room SE104 at the Welland campus or call at (905) 735-2211 ext. 7689 or e-mail: ldimattio@niagarac.on.ca.

See the next edition of Niagara News on Sept. 28, 2001.

Visit us online this summer at www.niagara-news.com

APPLIED LEARNING

Knowledge, work skills found on campus

By LAURA LENNIE
Staff Writer

Seek and you shall find.

A Niagara College graduate says she found knowledge and skills during her time at the Welland campus that were transferable to the "real world."

"During the summer of 1999 I really had no direction of what I wanted to do, and the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program really caught my interest, and that's the way I decided to go," says Deborah Spence, 25, of Stoney Creek.

Spence graduated in June 1999 from Brock University in St. Catharines, with a bachelor of arts degree with honours in psychology. "I chose psychology because it was a broad field, and it enabled me to take a look at human behaviour, which I was interested in."

'What I was looking for were skills that were transferable to the real world.'
— Deborah Spence

Spence says she was originally interested in becoming a teacher. Spence volunteered at Memorial Public School in Stoney Creek, for 2 1/2 years and taught Grade 1 through Grade 3.

"It was a good way to see whether or not teaching was what I wanted to do."

Spence volunteered with Grade 6 students at St. Clair Elementary School in Stoney Creek during her last year at Brock University. "Volunteering was satisfying, but at the same time, I was weighing up the positives and the negatives and it just seemed at the time that there were more negatives."

Spence says teaching would not allow her "to grow intellectually."

"You know that you're going to be teaching the same concepts to the same level of children and there's only so many ways you can teach those concepts. Is that going to challenge me?"

Spence says she was "concerned about whether I was capable of teaching fundamental facts to children, so that they would have that knowledge for the rest of their lives. I mean that's a huge challenge and a huge responsibility to put on someone. I wanted to make sure that I was up for the challenge and if I wasn't, it wouldn't be fair to the children."

Spence says she searched the Internet to see where her skills and interests would lead her and she "happened" to go to the Niagara College Web site. "What I was looking for were skills that were transferable to the real world and I didn't think that I had received those skills at university."

Spence attended the college full time from September 1999 to April 2000. "One of the strong factors that made me decide to choose the Public Relations (Post-graduate) program was because it was only an extra year of study on top of my previous education."

Spence says she enjoyed the opportunity of getting a wide variety of experiences at the college. Spence, who interned at McMaster University in Hamilton as part of her practical experience, says the college "gave us an excellent opportunity to use the knowledge we had learned in the first and second semester and apply it and get a chance to see whether or not we really liked it, and that's a bonus in any program. I think it should be mandatory; it should be essential in universities and colleges.

"You could say that you love doing the theory, but until you actually get out there and deal with the problems, you're not going to know whether or not you really have that love for it and the desire to do it."

Spence says the college taught not only the "basics" but also the "important" aspects of public relations. "Mrs. (Nancy) Geddie, our Public Relations program co-ordinator, made each of us look at grammar and sentence structure in a more critical and clear manner, which is essential for public relations writing."

"We were given the opportunity to do media releases, media lists, profiles, reports and research papers, all of which are really important."

Spence says that being able to practice public speaking in front of her peers was "good practice" for the future.

"You're going to be stammering, you're going to be red faced," she says with a smile, "but it's good practice. You would rather fail in front of your peers than fail in front of a client, so that practice is extremely important."

Niagara College has the "proper tools" to prepare students for the "real world," says Spence. "My computer skills were very poor and in Paul Dayboll's computer class there were people coming into the program, all with varying levels of computer skills, and he was able to teach everyone."

Spence says she not only learned about specific computer programs but also about computer functioning and about working "more efficiently" with computers.

"We were learning how to do (Microsoft) PowerPoint presentations, how to do Web pages and how to do databasing and even though we were learning those specific programs, we were also learning those general skills that we could carry with us to any job, and that is extremely beneficial."

Spence says she found it "refreshing" that teachers at the college would stay back after class to answer questions. "I found that refreshing, just to get that personalization that was different from a university professor, who would shut his book and fly out the door."

Spence, who works at Interkom Creative Marketing in Burlington, Ont., as a public relations co-ordinator, says she feels good to be working at 25 years of age. "It is somewhat intimidating because it's like a comfort zone being in school and not being out there. When you're in school you're always thinking about the next thing and how exciting the field is, but I really have to worry about job satisfaction, and sometimes I ask myself, is this really what I want to be doing?"

Spence, who works 45 hours a week, does internal public relations for the company. She says there are challenges when you are the "new" person starting from the bottom. "You really have to show yourself and prove that you are contributing to the team and that you are contributing new things and contributing new knowledge."

Being specialized in the field is "good" but it can be difficult, says Spence. "They are going to expect that you know inside and out what you're doing, but that's the challenge."

Public Relations (Post-graduate) program graduate Deborah Spence on her way to work at Interkom Creative Marketing in Burlington, Ont.

Photo by Laura Lennie

Spence, who earns $36,500 a year, says that when she started at Interkom Creative Marketing, the company didn't have anyone "strictly" doing public relations. "A lot of people would look to me and say that I was it, as far as public relations is concerned. In a small company of 20 people, I'm it.

'You constantly have to update your skills.'
— Deborah Spence

"So when the vice-president of the company comes up to me and says 'I need your help,' and that's someone who has been in the business for 20 or 25 years, coming to me who is just in the business, it gives your esteem a boost and it's great."

Spence says she was able to bring the knowledge she had learned at Niagara into the company she works for. "When I first started there, I don't think the company had a grasp of what a media kit was, and from the public relations program at the college, I was able to give them extra tools and bring new knowledge to the company. It was very satisfying."

Spence says she will continue to take college and university courses throughout her career.

"You constantly have to update your skills and you constantly have to make yourself desirable for employers because if you remain stagnant no one is going to want to hire you and no one is going to want to renew your contract."

Spence says she found that there were aspects that were "very cruel, very cold and very harsh" when she joined the workforce.

"Compared with a college atmosphere, even though there is that competition, it can be very cut-throat and very cold when you actually get out into the real world and there's nothing you can do, necessarily, to prepare for that, and it's kind of scary."

Student gets job at college's Welland campus

By MELISSA BAXTER
Staff Writer

A Niagara College student's education is paying off through employment at the college.

Mandy Cornell, 22, of Welland, is a full-time employee here. She is completing the two-year General and Office Administration — Executive (Co-op) program. This program includes a co-op that requires 800 hours of work experience.

She says the co-op has given her the opportunity to work at the Student Support Services office at the main entrance of the Welland campus.

Cornell says her job duties include reception, giving campus tours and arranging them for the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

She says she is required to handle admissions and transcripts and to mail out programs. She says she has worked for the Student Support Services since January although she has worked at many places in the college including the Health Centre.

Cornell says she works regular full-time hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., about 35 hours a week. She has a second job at the Seaway Mall in Welland at Cotton Ginny, the women's clothing store, as a sales representative working part time.

'I have the benefits of working and being a student.'
— Mandy Cornell

Cornell says she enjoys her job at the college. "Oh ya, I enjoy my job. I meet interesting people and give directions to students."

She says her opinions of the college are "neutral. I have the benefits of working and being a student."

Cornell says she is more than familiar with the *Niagara News*, as she is "required" to read the newspaper. "Students call about advertisements in the *Niagara News* and I answer their questions." Cornell says she has a good relationship with students here.

Cornell says she does not have much time for extracurricular activities. "Between my two jobs I do not have much spare time."

She says she enjoys going on road trips with friends when she gets a chance.

Cornell says being an office administrative executive is her career choice now although she expects to have several different careers in her lifetime.

College Coverage

Student experiencing 'lifelong dream'

By RYAN SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

"The untamed mountains and wilderness brought me to a higher level of respect for life," said Jeremia Mason, 20, a first-year Culinary Arts program student at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Mason, of Port Colborne, said he first became interested in the field of culinary arts as a child. "It was my lifelong dream."

He began his career in 1995 at Lucy's Café and Diner in Port Colborne with no prior experience, working with all types of food, from salads to the main course entrees. After a year at Lucy's, he went to work at Alberto's Pizzeria in Port Colborne.

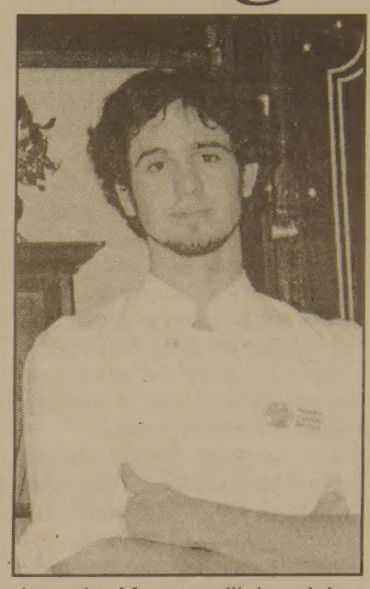
After working in the cooking field for two years and exploring his options, Mason began landscaping for a small Port Colborne company. In 1999, Mason left Ontario for Saint-Louise de Kent, N.B., to work as a logger for nine months. He found employment at a local bar in New Brunswick called Dezzy's, where he worked as a cook and bartender. Following two short months at Dezzy's, Mason packed his bags for Whitehorse, Yukon. "I wanted to travel, and it (Yukon) is the extreme of Canada."

"The experience was exhilarating and the surroundings were beautiful. The northern lights were amazing. The people were kind and the snowboarding was mind-blowing," said Mason.

'Niagara's culinary program is a good start for theory and practical skills ...'

While in Whitehorse, Mason worked at the Yukon Inn as a line cook, and after two months, he was promoted to line cook supervisor.

Seven months into his Yukon experience, Mason chose to return to Port Colborne in the summer of 2000. While Mason was living in the Yukon, his parents would send him brochures and pamphlets informing him of Niagara College's Culinary Arts program. He said many people told him the college was a "great" establishment and has a well-recognized culinary program.



Jeremia Mason will be doing his co-operative learning at Winchester Arms this summer.
Photo by Ryan Sutherland

Upon his return, he began working at the Windjammer, a job that lasted two months. Moving on, Mason, in the fall of 2000, got a job with the Upper Deck in Port Colborne as a garmenger (salad chef) and line cook.

"Niagara is close to home so I can save money while going. I heard a lot of good things about the college. Niagara's culinary program is a good start for theory and practical skills and has a great standpoint of the culinary industry," said Mason.

This summer, Mason said he'll be doing his co-operative learning at Winchester Arms in Port Colborne, where he has been working since February. He said he enjoys working there because he has more control over the operations, and the establishment is much more organized than his prior experiences in the field.

Mason said the program is a "great experience and prepares you for the working world." However, he said the program should include more focus on international dishes.

After he receives his Culinary Arts program diploma, Mason said he plans on returning to Yukon because of its environment. "I hope to advance in the art of cuisine and continue to challenge myself at every turn. I would also like to keep the basics of cooking alive."

In the future, Mason said he hopes to own a beachside restaurant somewhere in the Cayman Islands.

Mason said he thinks the culinary arts have moved on to be a lot more challenging and demanding. Tourism has had a lot to do with it, said Mason, adding, people are searching for fine foods rather than settling for family restaurants.

Although the technology hasn't changed much, "food is food," says Mason. People in culinary arts seem to be using a lot more fresh ingredients, he says.

"Everyone needs to eat. There are two things everyone needs to continue living: food and air, and I'm here to supply one of them."

More photography will 'open the employment door'

By REBECCA MARCHILDON
Staff Writer

Starting in September, the politics course will be removed from Niagara College's two-year Journalism-Print program in order to increase the number of hours photography is taught to first-year students.

Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator of the Journalism-Print program, said the program's advisory committee, which consists of managing editors and editors of local newspapers and magazines, "asked for more (student) training in photography."

Barnatt said she thinks the change, which was proposed by the committee last fall to Stu Black, project manager New Media Development in the Communications and Information Technology Division, will "open the employment door" for students.

Meetings of the advisory committee, journalism staff and Black have been held since last fall. Barnatt said "extensive discussions" took place on the subject of the proposed change.

"I was never called to any meeting. There may have been a meeting held but if the person bringing it up is the person who wants the change, what's the likelihood that they would present it fairly?" said Brian Keppy, professor of history and politics.

Asked whether any politics teachers disagreeing with the idea were present at the meetings, Black said other departments were "not included in the decision."

"We have to listen to industry if we want them to hire our graduates," said Black.

Keppy said he feels the change, which was finalized in January, is doing "a disservice to students."

"I think we should graduate our students with the confidence that they could get a job at the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times*, and if they choose to work in a smaller paper then they will be more than prepared," said Keppy. "It's a matter of priorities."

"What is more important: knowing how to write a story or knowing how to take a picture to go with the story?"

"The idea that we can put you out there with no understanding of basic politics is precarious ... You can't interpret anything without a perspective, without a background."

However, Barnatt said teachers of the program will "still be delivering the content" of politics but will distribute the material throughout other courses.

"I'll be restructuring how I deliver lectures (in reporting and news writing). The material will be more relevant since students will be learning it and immediately using it in council coverage," said Barnatt. She has an honours bachelor of arts degree in politics from Brock University in St. Catharines.

She said "part of being a reporter is learning on the job" and "as a good reporter you are going to go out and educate yourself" on important issues and information such as political theories and backgrounds. "Really good reporters are self-starters," said Barnatt.

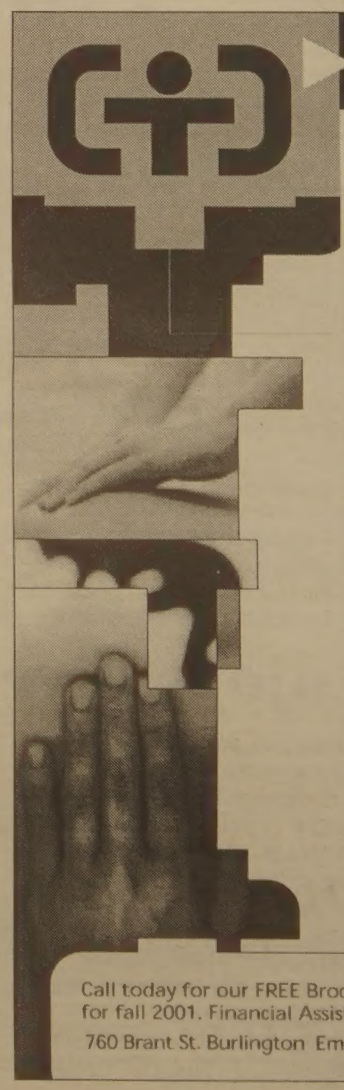
Although some teachers aren't happy with the abolishment of politics, they said there is no other choice. "If I had my wish list, I would have kept politics and added more photography, but that's impossible. The government won't allow us to add hours," said Barnatt.

Gary Erb, professor of introduction to government and journalism, said he is "disappointed" with the change. "I teach politics, I love politics, but I understand the reasons behind the decision." He said the advisory committee thinks politics is important but "they're emphasizing basics." He said he believes students will still be exposed to basic political concepts. "I think students will get more politics but it will be more hands-on, more interviewing of politicians, as opposed to sitting in a three-hour lecture."

Erb said he doesn't believe students will suffer from the change. "I think it will help them because they want to go out and do things."

Jhim Burwell, professor of photography, said he is happy with the decision to include a photography course in Year One of the program. He said it provides him with a "greater ability to ensure quality content for the paper (*Niagara News*)."

"It's important that the (first-year) students know how to provide such content when they are asked to create the paper in April, and if they haven't had a chance to use a camera before then, they probably won't," said Burwell.



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BIOGRAPHIES

Opportunities abound for ESL professor

By SEAN F. TAYLOR
Staff Writer

"With every closed door there is an open window," says Betty Anne Chandler, 51, of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

This has become somewhat of a credo to one of Niagara College's popular English as a Second Language teacher.

She says that "heartbreak" has become an occupational hazard in her life.

"The most important thing I can say (to you) is that it broke my heart to have the nursing program close, but with every closed door there's an open window." Chandler is referring to the closing of Niagara College's Nursing program in 1998 because of a lack of funding and a poor hiring rate for graduates. "The program was just too costly and at that point all costly programs were cut."

She was born in March 1950 in Hamilton, Ont., and graduated from high school in 1969.

In 1970, Chandler attended the Mack School of Nursing in St. Catharines, Ont.

"I'd wanted to be a nurse since I was old enough to know what a nurse was."

It was at Mack that Chandler met her husband of 30 years, Patrick (Rick). He went on to become a paramedic, a position he held for 12 years. He became the co-ordinator of the Paramedic program at Niagara College's Welland campus. Chandler spent 13 years working alongside her husband, in the Intensive Care Unit at Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines. "We have pretty much always worked together. That's what makes our relationship so great."

Chandler was asked to teach by a member of the Continuing Education (CE) program in 1983. She began teaching a CE nursing class one afternoon a week. After receiving positive feedback from course evaluation reports, Chandler says, "teaching became my new love."

In 1990, Chandler attended Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y., graduating with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. Upon graduation, she began teaching a CE course in nursing until she left because of cuts in 1997. The program was cancelled a year later.

The college offered Chandler a position in the International Department in 1997. "The college approached me and offered me a position. I had been a host mother for exchange students, and it seemed like a natural transition in my life."

Before accepting the position, Chandler got her Teaching English as a Second Language certificate from Humber College in Mississauga, Ont.

"I influenced lives as a nurse and now I am able to influence lives worldwide."

Chandler was offered the position of the program's co-ordinator but declined the offer. "I admit that I strongly dislike the administrative and marking side of teaching. I think every teacher does."

The language barrier between her and her students is "not a concern," says Chandler. "A smile and body language, I have found, overcome any language barrier."

She says "the most difficult" part of her job is forming a bond with her students only to have them leave. "Helping them (the students) adjust is a really big part of my job, and after that it is hard to say goodbye."

Chandler, a mother of two full-grown children, is also a grandmother. Her 25-year-old son lives in nearby Ridgeway, and her daughter lives in Australia with her husband, whom she met while working in Alberta. "I don't get to see my babies (her grandchildren) as often as I would like, but my daughter is very happy, which makes me happy."

After teaching at Niagara College for the last 11 years, Chandler, who spends time with her husband to relax, says she has no plans for retirement anytime soon.

"Sixty (years old) is my limit. Let the new teachers come in, but I am not a big fan of free time."

When Chandler takes her "leave," she says she is "not hoping to have changed the lives of all her students" but hopes to "have made an impact on many."

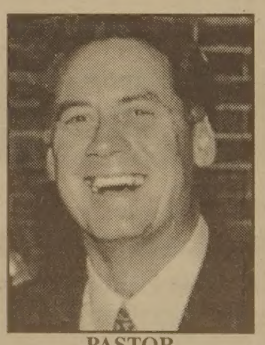
Betty Anne Chandler has been teaching at Niagara for 11 years.
Photo by Sean F. Taylor

"If my legacy is being able to show people that they should not be content on settling for things, but instead (they) should be looking for new experiences, new challenges. If I am able to show my students that, I'll be content."

Port Dalhousie pastor stays honest, true to himself

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

John Garner says he has learned many things in life about being a Christian, but the most important is being honest and true to himself.



PASTOR
JOHN GARNER

Garner, 46, of Port Dalhousie, is a pastor at Harbour Fellowship Church. Garner is from Lindsay, Ont., and says he has had an interesting childhood. "I was adopted when I was four weeks old, and I have no idea where from or who from." Although he was adopted, he says, his adoptive parents were helpful in his raising.

He and his parents moved to St. Catharines when he was 10 with his brother and two sisters.

Garner says there was some "perceived favouritism" among his siblings because he was the oldest child. "Because I was the oldest child, I had a closer relationship with our father than the others. My dad was more of a passive person, like myself, whereas my mother was more of the taking -care-of-business type of person."

Although, Garner says, he had a good childhood, he became rebellious in his teenage years. He made some wrong decisions and, at 18, was kicked out of his parents' house. At this point, he says, he decided to work at different jobs to make ends meet. He worked at Jack Nash's Menswear for three years in sales and management. During this time he decided to become a pro golfer, he says. He was getting his apprenticeship at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club when he chose to devote his life to Jesus Christ and decided to become a pastor, he says.

Garner studied at the Central Baptist Seminary for four years and says he worked to pay for his tuition and had help from his mother. He has been a pastor for 23 years and works between 50 and 60 hours a week.

He says he gets enjoyment out of helping people. "I take pleasure from letting people be honest about their doubts and fears and letting them know God."

Garner says he admires many people, including his friend John Claus. "We have been friends for 25 or 26 years but as teenagers we hated each other's guts, but we've come to know each other through various ordeals in our life."

When Garner's father died, he says it was Claus who was by his side. "John has been a very honest person and he helped me start the Harbour Fellowship Church. He has kept me on track throughout the years."

Garner says his mother is another person he admires because she gave him a second chance after she kicked the 18-year-old out of the house.

Garner has been married to his wife, Peggi, for 21 years and says that she is another person whom he admires because "she is wise" and he has learned a lot from her. Garner has two sons, Jordan and Peter.

He admires his family because they are honest with him and although they may have some "colourful conversations," at least they talk with each other.

'In life it's never all joy or never all sorrow. The river of life is about the peaks and valleys.'

Garner says that family is important to him. "When families break down, you can lose all sorts of hope and that is when society breaks down. I believe that everyone needs to know that there is a place that we all belong to because I need their love and they need my love."

Outside of work, Garner says he enjoys playing golf, reading and watching movies. Some of his favourite movies include The Untouchables, Chariots of Fire and The Godfather series.

Garner says he likes character-driven movies with a lot of drama and doesn't enjoy comedies because they are "crude. I like sitting back at the Pen Centre in St. Catharines, with my Starbucks coffee and relaxing, watching a great drama."

Garner says he has many philosophies of life and has learned that people are "hungry" to know where they are in life and when to give grace.

He says he tries not to be "intense" and tries to have a better sense of humour. "I've learned to laugh more. I'm an introverted person and I'm dealing with a funeral next week because a woman at our church committed suicide. But you try not to look at all the bad things in life and try to reflect on what is good."

Garner says his philosophy of life is like the song *Amazing Grace* because he has received the grace of God and he would like to share that with others.

"In life it's never all joy or never all sorrow. The river of life is about the peaks and valleys."

Multi-talented teacher enjoys diversity, challenge of job

By REBECCA MARCHILDON
Staff Writer

Karen Moreau-Petti, of Fonthill, says she has wanted to be a teacher ever since she was a young girl.

In her early 20s, after majoring in history at Brock University in St. Catharines and graduating from Brock's Teachers College, Moreau-Petti fulfilled her childhood dream of becoming a teacher.

In 1982, Moreau-Petti came to Niagara College in Welland as a teacher and co-ordinator for social sciences.

"I taught in public schools first, then one summer I taught at the college and stayed because I liked it better," says Moreau-Petti. "I like the age level of college students versus public school students."

Moreau-Petti teaches art history to students in the Art and Design Fundamentals–Graphic Design Production program, and sociology, criminology and politics to students in the Police Foundations program.

"I enjoy the diversity between the two groups because you get the freedom as well as the discipline."

Although she wishes she had gone to law school, Moreau-Petti says she has no regrets in her career choice. "I am one person who thoroughly enjoys what I'm doing," she says, adding that the students make teaching so enjoyable.

Moreau-Petti says she likes her colleagues at Niagara College. "There's no friction, they're pretty co-operative, and we get along well."

The only thing, she says, she doesn't like about working at the college is "sometimes the paperwork."

Moreau-Petti is taking an evening course in art history at Brock University and says she would eventually like to pursue a law degree. "That's one of the biggest things for me. I would really like to accomplish that."

Moreau-Petti has three children, two girls and one boy, ages 11, 14 and 16, but is unmarried. She says between working and taking her children to and from skating and hockey, she doesn't have time for anything other than her night courses.

Asked what she might like to do once she retires, she laughs and says, "That's such a long time away. I haven't really thought about it. I guess I want to eventually live by water."

Student Life

College feeling effects of Glendale fire

By MIKE VAN KOOTEN
Staff Writer

Niagara College is still feeling the effects of the fire at the Glendale campus residence in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On April 5, a single room in the Glendale residence caught fire early in the morning and sent three students to the hospital.

Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to Niagara College President Dan Patterson, said the estimated damage of the blaze is about $20,000.

At press time, no official cause has been determined. However, the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office has removed items from the damaged room for testing.

Neufeld said no "formal changes in the emergency procedure" have been made as a result of the fire, although a meeting has been set up for April 23 to review them.

Students at the Welland campus residence said they noticed changes in their homes since the fire at the Glendale campus.

Welland residence resident Christina Casciani, 19, of the Police Foundations program, said a fire drill was sounded at about 2:30 a.m. Friday, one day after the Glendale fire.

"I agree with what they did but I don't agree with it being that late," said Casciani, adding, the fire "really opened everybody's eyes."

Ian Johnston, 19, of the Paramedic program, said he was "pretty upset" about the fire drill. "They could have done it earlier or opened up the school."

He said the fire drill resulted in residents standing outside for about 45 minutes, some in T-shirts and shorts and others in socks.

Although students were already prohibited from having anything fire-related in their rooms, residence management had the rooms searched for candles, hot plates and other fire producing objects soon after the Glendale residence fire.

Police and fire crew are shown at the scene of the Glendale campus fire.

Photo by Mike Van Kooten

Student representative going to miss SAC times

By KAREN RENEE
Staff Writer

Representatives for Student Administration Council (SAC) have a lot of responsibilities, but student representative Ian Raine says he would "never give it up."

Raine, 21, of Mississauga, Ont., a second-year student in the General Arts and Science program, first became involved with SAC as a class representative in his first year at Niagara College's Welland campus.

In September of each year, class representatives are voted to serve on SAC by peers from their programs. This year at the college, Raine continued on SAC, as a class representative, until he was selected by the SAC executive to fulfil the position of a student representative.

A student representative has voting privileges and attends more meetings than a class representative, who attends monthly meetings and helps raise SAC awareness. "A student representative has more responsibility and is more involved," said Raine.

Student representatives are expected to put in a minimum of five hours a week, although Raine says he volunteers "anywhere from 15 to 20 hours a week" for SAC-related duties. "I put more hours in for SAC than I do my classes."

Raine said he has a wide range of responsibilities, including doing research, making proposals, organizing events, calling people, writing letters and preparing documents. "Mostly it's about getting out there with the students and being available at the SAC office."

Raine said it doesn't discourage him that some students criticize the level of awareness generated by SAC. "Those are the people that don't read the paper or the posters. If they don't come to the events or the SAC office there is only so much we can do." Raine said it is important for students to pay attention to the SAC bulletin boards for upcoming events and to get involved.

Raine said the best benefit of SAC is being able to "have a say" in the events going on at the college. Raine also said he feels more in touch with the student body through his involvement. "People recognize you from SAC, and I really feel like more of a college student because I'm doing more than just classes and tests."

Outside SAC and school, Raine says he enjoys an active social life and is employed as a certified chef at a golf and country club.

Raine said he is able to balance his responsibilities because he is able to separate work and school.

Welland SAC President Ryan McLaughlin, 23, of Welland, said that Raine was selected as a student representative because he always took part and showed an interest in SAC events. McLaughlin, a second-year student in the Journalism-Print program, said Raine goes beyond his required duties. "He is always there, always happy, always funny and willing to help."

Cindy Blanchard, finance administrator for SAC, says she "most definitely" works closely with the SAC executive and has seen what Raine has contributed over the year. "He's a take charge kind of person that shows a lot of initiative," said Blanchard. "He'll hear what we're planning and he jumps right in and will even end up running the event."

Raine said the most popular SAC event to date has been the ski trip.

Following graduation Raine said, "I'm going to miss the interaction with the students and the people on SAC, Cindy, Jeff, Ryan. I'll miss that the most."

Raine said involvement with SAC has developed his independence, leadership and organizational skills; however, he said his organizational skills "still need some work."

Raine said he'd encourage anyone considering involvement in SAC to "do it. It's a great opportunity to get to know the students and really get to know yourself. I love it. I would never give it up."

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- Canadian Cancer Society - Smokers Helpline
1-877-513-5333

Leave the Pack Behind

http://www.leavethepackbehind.org

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The 'Leave the Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco day campaign.

Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Steibelt, Queen's University

Employer encourages students to put education before work

By NIKKI MILLION
Staff Writer

Jen Fewster, 26, of Welland, is one of the many store managers who hire Niagara College students.

Fewster, who manages the Ardene store at the Seaway Mall, in Welland, says she finds the majority of the people who apply at Ardene are college students.

"I have no problem hiring college students for part-time positions because I find that they are goal-oriented and usually work because they have to. They are that much more willing to work."

Jennifer O'Connell, 19, of Guelph, is a General Arts and Science program student at Niagara. She has been working at Ardene for the last month and says she thought it would be difficult at first to balance her schoolwork and a job. "I only work a few hours a week, so it's not that difficult. I find that I actually get more done now."

O'Connell is one of the many students in Ontario forced to get a job while in college because the government will not help them financially. The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) bases how much money a student gets on how much money the student's parents earn.

"I don't think that it's fair that just because my parents earn over a certain amount that I can't get a loan. I don't think the government takes into consideration that my parents will have to support two households. I lived on Mr. Noodle for a month," says O'Connell.

As an employer, Fewster says most of her experiences with college students have been positive. She says she tells her staff to focus on school. "I don't have a problem working around their school schedules."

She says she doesn't mind if her employees come to her needing to take time off for school as long as they come to her in advance.

Fewster says she has advertised jobs at the college and found that the response was not all that good. "I think that most students didn't start looking for a job until school had already started. They were handing in resumés at the time I wanted to start hiring."

Fewster says it is unfair for an employer to expect a student to work full time. "Some students think that they can take on anything, and can for a while until it all blows up in their face or they have a breakdown."

Asked if she had any advice for students looking for a job next fall, Fewster says, "Look early and don't forget you're here for school."

OFF-CAMPUS FOCUS

From B.C. to Ontario in two days

By BRAD DEMERS
Staff Writer

How do you get from British Columbia to Ontario in just over two days by hitchhiking? Ask Jeannette Tossounian, a General Arts and Science program student at Niagara College.

Tossounian, 25, made the trip from Surrey, B.C., to Kitchener, Ont., when she was just 19. Along the way, she says she encountered suspicion, generosity and friendship.

"I wanted to get back to Kitchener, to stay with my mom," she said, adding that she had planned her trip for a week.

"I was staying at Wreck Beach, a nude beach in Vancouver. I didn't have a lot (of clothes) to pack," she joked.

"People think you're going from point A to point B if you're hitchhiking on a highway. They think you're a hooker if you're hitchhiking downtown," said Tossounian. To be safe, she packed a belt with pepper spray and a knife. "I was kind of nervous when I started."

She took a bus to the edge of Surrey, B.C., and started hitchhiking. About two minutes later, a man who was going to Jasper, Alta., picked her up. He had another passenger, a German tourist. Tossounian said she became a friend with both men, adding that she had plans to visit the German in his home country. Both she and the German man slept overnight in the car, and the next day they crossed into Alberta.

Tossounian then started hitchhiking again on the highway in Jasper. She was walking for a while before a car started to slow down. However, the car had not stopped to pick her up. A herd of elk was crossing the highway. "They were huge," said Tossounian.

Eventually, a blue pickup truck slowed and then stopped. "I was picked up by a cowboy," said Tossounian. However, he was not headed east, but rather into Jasper. "It was so cool. He took me to a spring, and he played bluegrass and we smoked a joint." He then dropped her back at the highway so she could continue hitchhiking.

Her next encounter was with a truck driver who was going to Edmonton.

She got off at a truck stop where she tried to find her next ride.

After asking several people for one, she was approached by a man who asked her if she really was hitchhiking. "They thought I was a lot lizard (a prostitute)," said Tossounian.

She said she managed to finally find someone who was going to Winnipeg. "I got a ride with a truck driver who was on uppers, 'beaners.' I slept in the cab while he drove straight through the night to Winnipeg." She was dropped off on the west side of Winnipeg at another truck stop.

Tossounian said the stop in Winnipeg was the most difficult of her trip back to Ontario.

"I was headed east, but everyone else was headed west. Plus, I was told that the only women who hitchhike are army dykes," said Tossounian, adding there was a military base in Winnipeg. "I was wearing an army-green R.E.M. shirt. People thought I was AWL (absent without leave)."

Jeannette Tossounian, 25, made the long trek from British Columbia to Ontario in just over two days.

Photo by Brad Demers

Tossounian continued hitchhiking. "A guy stopped to fill his truck, and he said he saw me back in Edmonton. He said that he thought I was a hooker." He was going to Ontario, so she had her next ride.

Her new driver took her as far as North Bay, Ont. Tossounian was headed to Sudbury, Ont., so she started hitchhiking again. "I found a sign on the side of the road that had Sudbury on one side and North Bay on the other, so someone must have been hitchhiking back and forth a lot." Tossounian used the sign to get her next ride.

She said this was the first driver who she found made her nervous. "He was sneaky and slimy," Tossounian said, adding he was constantly staring at her. He drove her to downtown Sudbury.

Tossounian said her grandmother lived in Sudbury, but she didn't know exactly where.

She had some money so she telephoned and surprised her mother. "She was ... mad," said Tossounian.

She stayed at her grandmother's house overnight, and her grandmother took her to the bus stop the next morning. Although her last trip was an uneventful bus trip to Kitchener, Tossounian said she has a passion for travelling. "I'd go everywhere and learn everything. I'm an opportunistic person. If something arises, I go."

Legion seeks approval to display Howitzer in Port Colborne

By NIKKI MILLION
Staff Writer

The Royal Canadian Legion's 75th Anniversary Committee is asking the City of Port Colborne to allow it to display a piece of war history in the city centre.

Bob Saracino, chairman of the anniversary committee and a Niagara Region councillor, spoke to the Port Colborne council on behalf of the legion recently.

Saracino pleaded with council members to reconsider a Jan. 26 decision on the legion's request for permanent placement of an L5 105mm Howitzer Artillery piece in King George Park.

Saracino says the gun should be "proudly displayed" in a prominent place with a high visibility to local residents and visitors.

"The gun will be a tribute to our fallen comrades and to all those who have served in our armed forces in war time, as well as to remind people Canadian soldiers are still serving around the world as peacekeepers."

With the support of other legion members who fought in the Second World War and the Korean War, Saracino says this is the least the city can do for those men and women who fought to preserve the freedom "we now all enjoy and sometimes take for granted."

Throughout the Second World War, King George Park was the site of many rallies. It was a common site for many servicemen and their families to go to and have their pictures taken before going to fight overseas.

"The legion has made it very clear that they want this as a memento. They have every intention and will work closely with the city to make sure it is placed in an appropriate fashion in the park," says Port Colborne Councillor Yvon Doucet.

Council changes its mind.

He says he understands some of the decisions that were made previously, but now that more information has come to light, he doesn't think the council has much choice but to follow through with the wishes of the legion.

Residents of Port Colborne have circulated a petition supporting putting the Howitzer in King George Park and have collected more than 2,000 signatures. The legion also has the support of many downtown businesses.

Frank DiBartolomeo, who sits on Port Colborne city council, says it is "unfortunate" this issue had to get to this point and that it isn't about the representation of war, violence, religion or nationality as it has been said to be, but rather about etiquette and democracy.

"The members have offered the city a token, an item which they believe is worthy of being displayed in a prominent location." DiBartolomeo says he has some concerns about the placement of the gun, in terms of costs and aesthetics, but is confident the staff and the legion will reach an amicable and agreeable consensus.

"I'll be very blunt," says Coun. Jack Roy. "My personal opinion is that I do not want to see it in King George Park." He says it has been a "hard issue" and he has had "a great deal of difficulty" coming to a decision.

Roy says his personal opinion is "not there (in King George Park), but in politics your personal opinion can't always come through when you have to represent your constituents. I will defer to the petition that has been taken. Two thousand people ... they speak loud and clear, and I will support it."

After hearing from a few more councillors, all of whom supported the move, a motion to rescind the council's previous decision was carried, followed by applause from the many war veterans who had come to show their support for placing the Howitzer in King George Park.

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College Services

Counsellors offer their help to students

By SARA CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

A counsellor at Niagara College says more students should take advantage of the services offered at the college.

Georgina Tibbs, 46, says she loves working in the Student Services Division/Counselling as a counsellor at Niagara College in Welland.

'I enjoy doing this because it gives you a better understanding...'
— Georgina Tibbs

"I consider myself a very friendly person, and I like to help others because that's what I'm at the college to do," she says.

Tibbs has been employed full time at the college for about five years.

She works at the Welland campus and the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. "I rotate campuses with the other counsellors, three days at one then three days at the other," she says, adding, "I enjoy doing this because it gives you a better understanding of all the programs offered by the college and the students who are involved in them."

She says she has lived in the St. Catharines/Niagara region all her life. "I like to stay close to home and my family." Tibbs says she is a former student of the Social Services program at Niagara College.

She later went to Brock University in St. Catharines to further her education. "It wasn't for about eight years after college, and I started slowly working at it. I picked up the extra credits when I needed them and could financially afford them."

Tibbs says she has been in the counselling profession for about 15 years. "I tried working with the mentally impaired, and then with seniors, but I realized those professions weren't for me. Later I worked with abused women, who I enjoyed to work with and was involved with for a long period of time, but working in the educational field was what I wanted to do."

Tibbs says the most difficult job she did was working with young offenders. "I tried helping them with school, along with their teachers, but it was tough if it came to going to court with these teens and making a choice of whether they should be able to stay in school or be sent to jail. That was hard to deal with."

GEORGINA TIBBS

Tibbs says her previous employment was with a program called Futures in St. Catharines. "The program was designed to help students that are getting out of high school that have had problems in the past with drugs, their family life, and to help them get back on the right track and figure out what they want to do in the future."

Tibbs says she likes being involved with the students. "I enjoy helping them with their career planning. More college students should become aware that this is what we are here to help them with. It's the hardest decision in their lives, answering the question what are you doing when you're done school."

Tibbs says she understands this because she didn't know what she wanted to do either, and she wants to help students make a decision.

Real-life scenarios just part of program

By W. COLIN GIBSON
Staff Writer

According to one student enrolled in the Police Foundations program at Niagara College's Welland campus, she was "slightly nervous" about her 40 per cent assignment in Report Typing II.

Kim Rome, 20, of Thunder Bay, Ont., is graduating in three weeks. The 40 per cent assignment involves teams of eight students.

The team members investigate many kinds of scenario occurrences, including break and enters, armed robbery and aggravated assaults staged in the Mackenzie building.

'... my scenario was a break and enter...'
— Kim Rome

The teams are expected to use radio communications and investigative tools to apprehend the suspect.

Rome said there are two types of officers. "First officers are at the crime scene, and second officers are the back-up." The first officers talk to witnesses and search the area for clues.

"For example, my scenario was a break and enter. There was a sign posted on the window as the 'entry point,'" added Rome.

All investigations involve arresting a suspect. "The whole Mackenzie building and the perimeter outside can contain a suspect you're looking for," said Rome.

The Mackenzie building has specific classrooms designated as a bar or a house. M2 is complete with beds, couches and a fake phone.

The entire investigation scenario takes about two hours including the paperwork.

'Students are great,' says cafeteria worker

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

"I have never missed work for bad weather," says Laura Nadon, 41, of Wainfleet, Ont., a cashier at Niagara College's cafeteria at the Welland campus.

She has worked here for 12 years and says her responsibilities include managing the cash register and helping serve coffee when needed.

'...It's neat to see a lot of the kids graduate...'
— Laura Nadon

She says it takes her about 15 to 20 minutes to drive to the school and she works five days a week from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Nadon says she likes her job as she gets to meet a lot of people.

"The students are great. It's neat to see a lot of the kids graduate and see them come back and say hi."

Nadon, who makes $8.74 an hour, says she has seen a change in the college during the period she has worked here.

"It (the college) is much more calm compared to 12 years ago. It was more busier, but I guess it changes with time and with some of the programs dropped. It results in less students coming to the cafeteria."

She says she worked last summer catering for the British rowers who stayed at the college while they competed in the World Rowing Championships held at Port Dalhousie. She served them three meals a day, seven days a week for a month. "We get to meet a lot of neat people that way."

Nadon has been married for 21 years and has two children. Ricki-Leigh is 16 and Troy is 20.

She says her main hobby is watching Jr. B hockey because she knows a lot of the players from their time at the college.

The Niagara News wishes to thank its advertisers and those who were interviewed this past school year by the staff writers of this newspaper.

Niagara College's Journalism-Print program thanks the following for their participation in providing placements for Year 2 students.

Newspapers: The Welland Tribune, The Niagara Falls Review, The St. Catharines Standard, Thorold News, Voice of Pelham, Lindsay This Week, Tekawennake, Meaford Express, The Simcoe Reformer and The Red Deer Advocate (Alberta).

Magazines: What's Up Kids? and The Passenger online.

Public Relations: Inniskillin Wines, United Way of South Niagara, Niagara College's Marketing and Communications Department, and the March of Dimes.

Production: The Brantford Expositor

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Inside After Hours

Niagara students showcase musical talent

By PETER GARNER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's talent was on display at the After Hours pub on April 4.

Six live acts and several karaoke acts took to the stage to show off their various levels of musical ability, with the exception of Doug Dumfries, who did a standup comedy act.

After Hours bartender Glenda Turner broke the ice with her rendition of Mr. Big's early 1990s power ballad *To Be With You*, Spice Girls' track *2 Become 1* and *Quit Playin' Games with My Heart* by the Backstreet Boys.

Chris Newman, next year's Welland campus Student Administrative Council (SAC) vice-president of student events, warmed up the crowd by covering Bruce Cockburn and Great Big Sea songs.

SAC President Ryan McLaughlin, 23, followed Newman with some original songs as he displayed his guitar and harmonica skills to the half-empty pub.

As the pub started to fill, the louder it got. The noise took away from the whole experience. That did not seem to faze Doug Dumfries' comedic act, though. His frequent attacks on the United States and Britney Spears had the crowd laughing and scratching their heads.

Three Niagara College students warm up the crowd with karaoke at After Hours on April 4.

Photo by Aaron Foster

Karaoke, as well as some of the live acts, seemed to play as filler between some of the bright spots of the evening.

The crowd didn't really seem to get into it until Doughboy arrived on stage with his posse at his side.

"Let's drop some beats," he said. "Put your hands in the air. Get up!"

Doughboy had the crowd on his side with his freestyle rap tunes. He was clearly the crowd's favourite of the night.

Second-year Journalism-Print program students Scott Thomson and Bill Stephenson, who call themselves Down the Street, arrived on stage to scattered applause. Stephenson had a set of bongos in his hands, while Thomson was playing guitar. Thomson dedicated his second song, called *Flipside*, "to all the scorned lovers out there."

He said his third song, *Untitled*, was his tribute to reggae. "It's no Shaggy, but I'll give it a try."

Becky Matheson was the talent show closer, and with her powerful voice she wowed the crowd with her renditions of Sarah McLachlan's *Angel* and Jewel's *Foolish Games*.

When all was said and done, Doughboy won the first prize worth $300. Matheson won second prize worth $150 and Down the Street won the third prize worth $50.

Finger Eleven surprise guests at Cheap Date

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

Students at the Niagara College After Hours pub expecting a cheap date on April 3 got more than they bargained for.

Finger Eleven performed at the Molson Cheap Date concert at the college's pub after the first date was cancelled because of the illness of one of the members of the Headstones.

"It's a really cool opportunity," said lead singer Scott Anderson. He said it is a strong visual show where the band can "change people's minds about the band."

"The crowd was really receptive ...we're pretty confident about our live show, even if you've never heard of us."

Anderson, 26, said this was why the band was not nervous to play an unadvertised show in front of a crowd that might not otherwise attend a Finger Eleven show. "It's good to get their attention for a bit."

Anderson said the band enjoyed playing at Niagara. "We've played both stadiums and small shows. In a small crowd, the club becomes yours."

He said the band had not performed live in two months. "You can't expect too much, we had to find our groove again."

Finger Eleven, formerly called the Rainbow Butt Monkeys, are originally of Burlington, and have been together since 1991.

The band played two sold-out shows in Toronto this past November. "It's a nice surprise to be embraced again after being dropped by your country, so we're happy about it but also a little bitter," said Anderson. "It's a long time coming for us. We've been doing the same thing for so long-we should have been playing sold-out shows years ago."

Finger Eleven also toured with Creed last year in the U.S. "The audience was there to see Creed, but we caught them for an hour, and they were patient with our country and with us."

As for influences, he said "an indirect inspiration is better than a direct rip-off. We try to go beyond our means,we're into big music and big ideas."

The band has released two albums, 1997's **Tip** and 2000's **The Greyest of Blue Skies**. "Discs are more important to me than live shows, because that's the way I listen to music. But live shows are more fun and instantly gratifying."

Finger Eleven frontman Scott Anderson gets emotional at Cheap Date on April 3.

Photo by Sean F. Taylor

Anderson said he feels "really good" about the development of the band. "We got our wish — this is what we're doing for a career. We can do this 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

He said Finger Eleven is at the beginning of an Ontario campus tour, after which they will play shows in Vancouver and Seattle. The band plans to organize a mid-sized tour.

Andrij Dupuis, 19, a first-year student in the Pharmacy Technician program, said he was "kind of disappointed" with Finger Eleven's show. "I wasn't too happy with it. The show they played at Front 54 in Thorold was a lot better."

Dupuis, of Brantford, said he was disappointed about the Headstones' cancellation. "I've already seen Finger Eleven, but I've never seen the Headstones."

He said he won his ticket after singing *O Canada* at a recent After Hours Comedy Night. "It was a good show, but I know they can do better."

Melissa Berry, 19, of Kincardine, Ont., said she enjoyed the show. "It was a really good show. I was happy it was Finger Eleven."

Remember your first day at Niagara College? Maybe you were nervous, intimidated - or even lost! Here's your chance to help out that first-year student who is going through those same anxieties (and hey, you can even make a few bucks doing it!)

RETURNING STUDENTS:

WE WANT YOU!!

The Orientation `01 Committee is now taking applications for Student Ambassadors for September's Orientation activities.

For more information, or to fill out an application, please go to the Info Centre at the Welland campus, or the SAC office at the Glendale campus.

Reviewing the Arts

Tragically Hip's Gord Downie goes solo

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

For Tragically Hip fans, Gordon Downie's new solo album falls nothing short of Fully Completely greatness.

Coke Machine Glow, released in early April, is a collection of mellow songs and a deeper look at the poetry of The Tragically Hip's lead singer.

The album, which comes with a book of poetry written by Downie, still has the same familiarities of any Tragically Hip record, but with an added mellow undertone.

In purchasing this album, one might expect to hear just another Tragically Hip record. For the most part, this is not the case.

The first track, *Starpainters*, opens with a very un-Hip like piano and accordion medley, followed by a monologue from Downie that reminds you of The Doors' Jim Morrison.

Afterwards, it proceeds into the more conventional sounds of the Hip, although there are more interesting sound effects from instruments not usually used in a Tragically Hip album. These include the piano, accordion, chord organ, banjo, mandolin and trumpet.

During many songs, **Coke Machine Glow** strays from the normal Hip songs into some odd and unexpected tracks through the use of these instruments.

Track eight, *Nothing but Heartache in Your Social Life*, is another dramatic monologue by

Downie recorded over yet another very un-Hip-sounding song.

Other tracks on the album remind you somewhat of mellow Hip songs such as *Flamenco* and *Fiddler's Green*.

The lyrics are not unlike any of Downie's other songs. They are filled with the same metaphors and Downie's same encounters with band and family life.

One thing still stands true as it always has for the Tragically Hip: Downie is an entirely Canadian musician who sings about Canadian things.

The main difference between **Coke Machine Glow** and any other Tragically Hip album is it was done by an entirely different group of musicians and sound technicians. These include Josh Finlayson of the Skydiggers, Don Kerr of the Rheostatics, Steven Drake of Odds, and Toronto filmmaker Atom Egoyan on guitar.

A critic from the Edmonton Sun said, "**Coke Machine Glow** comes off like a Hip record without the Hip." I disagree. To me, there was the odd song that made me feel as if I was just listening to a Hip record. Other songs are completely unique from any song on a Hip record. This has the best of both worlds.

Coke Machine Glow is a wonderful journey. It is a very diverse album that goes from sleepy and mellow to just plain weird, but in a good way. Any true Hip fan would appreciate it.

Salon de Refusee debuts

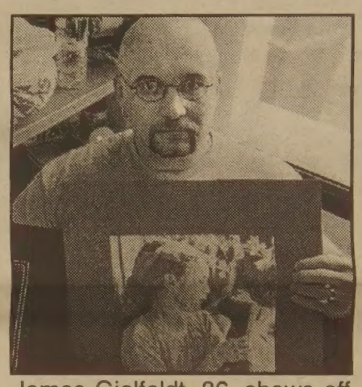
By JASON ROMANIUK
Staff Writer

Artwork from Niagara College's top young artists will be on display at the first annual showing of Salon de Refusee.

'I'm really proud of my students.'

This display is a showcase of the final Life Drawing projects of second-year Art and Design Fundamentals – Graphic Design Production program students. It is a weeklong extravaganza starting April 23 and ending April 27. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room B12, near the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome and no formal dress is required.

"I wanted to have an outlet to show off the students' work. Each student can show one



James Gielfeldt, 36, shows off the artwork he will be displaying at Salon de Refusee.
Photo by Jason Romaniuk

piece," says James Gielfeldt, 36, of St. Catharines, professor of life drawing. A graduate of the Art and Design Fundamentals – Graphic Design Production program, Gielfeldt is in his sophomore year as professor in the program.

Gielfeldt says he feels his program does not receive the amount of exposure it deserves and is excited about this step forward. "I'm really proud of my students. I think it's great for people to see what actually goes on behind closed doors."

The only guidelines Gielfeldt laid out for his students for the project was to involve the human form in some way.

"I'm hoping to make this an annual event," says Gielfeldt, adding that special thanks should go to program co-ordinator Greg Smith for co-ordinating the event and producing posters and invitations.

Newcomer Hugh Jackman saves film about love, happiness, heartbreak

By VICKI SWANTON
Staff Writer

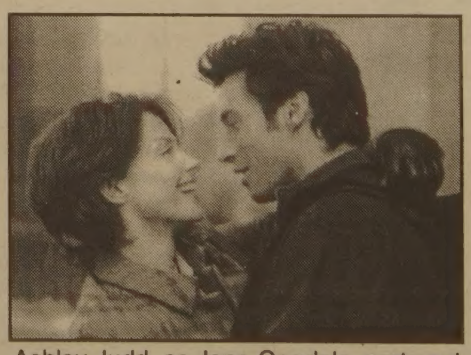
"Typical" and "predictable" are the two words I would use to describe the movie Someone Like You.

The new romantic comedy is a typical date movie with an ending that viewers are able to predict before the movie starts.

Ashley Judd (Kiss the Girls) plays Jane Goodale, a producer for a popular daytime talk show, who falls madly in love with Ray Brown, the show's handsome executive. After leaving his girlfriend and telling Jane to move out of her apartment and in with him, he decides the relationship is over.

Now confused and distraught over the recent breakup, Jane decides to write a column on the comparison of men and animals (cows, to be exact).

Trying to understand why and how Ray suddenly broke off the relationship, Jane uses a pen name of a recently deceased old woman named Dr. Marie Charles in order to hide her true identity.



Ashley Judd, as Jane Goodale, sorts out living arrangements with roommate Eddie, played by Hugh Jackman.
Submitted photo

When her column becomes a huge success, Jane finds that trying to keep her secret is no longer easy.

After moving out of her apartment in an attempt to move in with Ray, Jane is out of a home. When her annoying co-worker Eddie (Hugh Jackman) puts up an ad looking for a roommate, Jane decides to apply.

In a typical turn of events, Jane and Eddie find themselves slowly becoming attracted to one another.

Just when their romance is finally starting to blossom into something bigger, the unexpected happens: Diane Roberts, Jane's boss, wants to bring Dr. Marie Charles onto her show, leaving Jane with no choice but to expose herself. When Eddie realizes that Jane has been lying to him, he leaves the station in anger. At that moment, Jane realizes that she is, in fact, in love with Eddie.

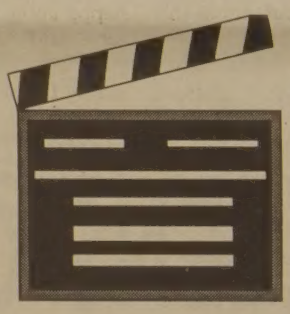
In the end, this movie earns three stars. Quite frankly, potential audiences are advised to save the $8 and wait for this movie to come out on video.

Dancer in the Dark mind-blowingly brilliant

By PETER GARNER
Staff Writer

Dancer in the Dark will either tick you off or make you cry. It made me do the latter.

Lars Von Trier's latest epic is one of brilliance and triumph. His previous two movies, Breaking the Waves and The Idiots, have won him critical acclaim and a cult following. Dancer is no different.



Björk stars as Selma, a shy, ailing single mother of one, living in the 1960s.

She has a secret that only she and the audience knows. She is suffering from a genetic disease she has been battling since her mid-teens that is slowly blinding her. She emigrated from Europe a few years after the diagnosis to help fund a surgery that will prevent Gene (her son), from acquiring this disease.

Selma works at a local steel factory with Mary, played by the legendary Catherine Deneuve. Working many hours of overtime and saving up almost all of her money, she has almost reached her goal, but then the unthinkable happens.

What? I'm not giving that away.

She lives with Gene in a trailer on Bill and Linda Houston's property. Bill is a police officer for the county and Linda is a typical housewife with an obsession for money. Selma has a form of escape that she uses to get away from any given situation. She dreams that she is in a musical, in fact the star of a musical, dancing and singing her heart out.

Her love of musicals is about the only happy, uplifting part of the movie.

Scenes of her and Mary in a dimmed theatre watching musicals of the 1940s are touching, as we watch Mary explain to Selma what is going on in the scenes, because of Selma's poor eyesight.

Jeff, played by Peter Stormare, adds a hint of humour as Selma's shy admirer. He is always waiting outside the factory for Selma, wanting to give the resisting woman a ride home.

The movie is an emotional roller-coaster, but it usually lands on the depressing side.

Björk's voice is also a centrepiece in this movie with several musical interludes, such as the Oscar-nominated song *I've Seen it All* and *107 Steps*.

The movie has a superb cast including David Morse as Bill Houston, and Siobhan Fallon (Saturday Night Live alumni) as prison guard Brenda.

Some critics say that this movie is a crock; some call it manipulative. I call it mind-blowingly brilliant. Before you call me a wimp for crying, watch it. You will be pleasantly surprised.

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Drummer keeping beat his own way

By NIKKI MILLION
Staff Writer

Stewart Morgan, 45, of Toronto, Ont., says he has always lived his life to the beat of his own drum. Literally.

At the age of 11, he signed himself up for drum lessons, and he has been playing ever since. While other young people were listening to rock, Morgan says such great musicians as Louis Belson, Woody Herman and Buddy Rich were influencing him.

"These guys were gods to me. I used to sit in my room and listen to them play for hours."

Morgan says his entire life has revolved around music and martial arts. "Music and karate have allowed me to see the common thread with everything in life, as opposed to the differences."

After quitting school in Grade 11, Morgan started teaching music at Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute in Toronto. "I taught there for about 10 years. I wrote some of the curriculum and the exams."

Morgan says one of the most rewarding moments in his life, other than teaching, was when his bandmate was nominated for a Juno award in 1982. "She was nominated for the most promising female vocalist. It was a great moment. We felt like stars."

When asked what he does for fun, Morgan says, "I play the drums, and I go to the Dojo to train. It's what I do to relax, it's what I do for fun and it's what I've done for a living for over 30 years now."

Stewart Morgan, 45, has toured around Canada with his drums.

Photo by Nikki Million

Morgan says his family is "very important" to him. "My family has been very supportive when it comes to my music and my spirituality, and now that I've found my daughter, she is the world to me."

Morgan, who gave up a child in 1975, was reunited with her in 1995. He says just after she was born, he went to see a psychic who told him they would be reunited shortly before she turned 20.

"I remember standing in front of the glass and saying 'I'll see you in 20 years.' It was the hardest thing I ever had to do, but we were on the road. I knew I would see her again."

While growing up, Morgan says he dreamt of becoming famous. "I think that every kid wants girls screaming his name."

"My desire for music is no longer ego-driven. I play for the love of it now and no longer for the satisfaction of my ego. As you get older, you start to realize there is a greater purpose for playing, or for karate, and bringing it into your life — like Yin and Yang."

Morgan says his outlook on life has matured over the years. "I've come to recognize that all creativity manifests itself in many different forms. It all comes from the same source. Whether it be performing or tiling a bathroom. I see the music in everything now."

Local writer urges 'just do it'

By NIKKI MILLION
and BRAD DEMERS
Staff Writers

A local novelist has some succinct advice for new writers: "Just do it."

George V. Henderson, 51, of Niagara Falls, was at Coles bookstore at the Seaway Mall in Welland on March 11 to sign the second publication of his book Covet Not.

Henderson, who been writing for seven years, was first published six years ago. He was previously in marketing for 25 years, but says he didn't enjoy it. "I never got to see my name on anything I did."

Covet Not is the second in a series of four spy novels. Spy Not was the first novel and Waste Not and Want Not will end the series.

The series centres on a character named Mike McFurson, a courier for the British Secret Service. Henderson said McFurson falls into things that are outside his territory.

"He's in deep trouble most of the time."

Henderson says he is good at what he does. "I sit down and knock out a chapter a night."

"I love writing. You get to play with the world."

Henderson says the background for a story is important. He cautioned writers to use any background they want, but "if you write books, you have to see it before you write it. You should have been there."

He says it is difficult to make a lot of money through writing. "Writing is a lot of fun, but there's not much money in it unless you're in control of things."

Henderson says he was influenced by several writers, including Ernest Hemingway (To Have and Have Not, For Whom the Bell Tolls) and Ian Fleming (License to Kill, James Bond).

Henderson says it is important for writers to write with impact and in as few words as possible. "I try to have something specific in each of my books," he added, advising one should personalize the story as well.

"Most authors have a chunk of themselves in what they write.

"Sit down and do it. Just do it. Send it off. You never know."

Talented Time Bomb

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

Another chapter in the rock 'n' roll novel has been completed.

Buckcherry's sophomore album **Time Bomb** picks up exactly where its gold-selling, self-titled debut album left off.

Time Bomb, released on DreamWorks Records, has established Buckcherry, not as a new movement in the music industry, but as a much-needed injection of true rock in the music scene.

Buckcherry is Josh Todd, vocals, Keith Nelson, guitar, Yogi, guitar. J.B., bass and Devon Glenn, drums.

At a time when a lot of bands are just trying to satisfy music corporations and follow the trend of combining hip-hop with rock 'n' roll and just about everything else, Buckcherry is one of the few rock bands that has stuck to its guns.

The Los Angeles-based band has proven with **Time Bomb** that it is not just a one-dimensional band who can only perform in only one style. Songs like *Whiskey in the Morning*, *Porno Star* and *Frontside* provide Buckcherry fans with recognizable guitar riffs, solos and plenty of attitude. *Helpless* and *Open My Eyes* incorporate powerful melodies with simple but effective piano and acoustics.

"The best thing about **Time Bomb** is that when people hear it, they'll go, 'It's Buckcherry,'" says lead-singer Josh Todd, on the band's Web site (www.buckcherry.com). "The second you hear the guitars, the voice, you'll know. We've crystallized a sound and a movement, which is what we started with Buckcherry. We've totally nailed it with this one. This is the record we've always wanted to make."

Already being mentioned in the same breath with rock bands such as Aerosmith, Guns N' Roses, and The Black Crowes so early in their careers by music critics, Buckcherry's success to date has been phenomenal.

Buckcherry, who formed in 1995, has already played gigs like Woodstock '99, debuted with a gold-selling album and is opening massive shows for rock legends AC/DC.

Time Bomb is 13 non-stop, memorable songs that any rock 'n' roll enthusiast should enjoy. It is well worth investing the time and money to purchase this album.

The potential of Buckcherry, at this point, is only limited to how far the band members want to take their band. It seems unlikely, however, that this band will fade away quietly.

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Wake up to Koffee Brown

By KAREN RENEE
Staff Writer

The male/female team known as Koffee Brown takes the battle of the sexes to the next level on its promising debut album, **Mars/Venus**.

New Jersey-based Koffee Brown brings the best of both worlds on the scene, combining old-school sound and modern-day hip-hop. The duo, Fonz and Vee, gained instant recognition following their infectious lead single *After Party*.

It is important to note that *After Party* will not be the only popular single from this 16-track CD from Divine Mills and Arista.

Album producer KayGee, of Naughty by Nature, keeps the energy up on these radio-ready tracks. The upbeat tempo of *Weekend Thing* and *Quickie* will keep you grooving, while the melodramatic lyrics of *Didn't Mean to Turn You On* and *Chick on da Side* explore the many sides of love.

The duo work wonderfully together, bringing their own gender bias to the album, although at times it sounds more like a sexist and trashy talk show than a respectable album.

This unique album combines music, spoken words and poetry.

Mars/Venus is an album that will appeal to anyone looking for a laid-back rhythm and blues album that you can put in and play the whole way though.

FROM THE STANDS

'Run for Roses' ready for bloom

By JASON ROMANIUK
Staff Writer
Column

It's been called the most exciting two minutes in sports.

The Kentucky Derby is run on the first Saturday in May every year, and every year thousands of owners and trainers dream of having a three-year-old horse talented enough to compete in the Run for the Roses.

The Kentucky Derby is run at Churchill Downs Racetrack in Louisville, Ky. It is the first jewel in the American Triple Crown. The Preakness Stakes in Maryland and the Belmont Stakes in New York follow it. The last horse to sweep all three races was the legendary Affirmed in 1978.

The Derby itself is a daunting challenge for a young horse. To face the best of its age in North America, over a unique racing surface, at an unfamiliar distance (one and one quarter miles), in front of over 100,000 screaming fans is not easy by any means. To be successful a horse must possess speed, strength, courage and lots of luck.

With the big race just about a three weeks away, the stakes are beginning to rise, and a handful of horses have emerged from the pack as leading contenders for this year's Derby.

Monarchos may be this year's most exciting prospect. In three races he has gone from a maiden (winless) to a future star. In a matter of two months he has shown more versatility and acceleration than most horses display in a lifetime. He has won from in the lead, just behind the leaders and from far behind the pace. Every win was at a different distance and each was accomplished more impressively than the last. In The Florida Derby, Monarchos sat 11th, far behind the leaders. At the far turn, he circled the field so quickly you could have missed it if you blinked. He then took over the lead and drew off to win easily, suggesting that the demanding distance of the Kentucky Derby should pose no problem. He suffered his first defeat of the year last out in The Wood Memorial, but should rebound nicely over a Churchill Downs surface he has been training over for a month.

Dollar Bill showed his quality by easily winning The Risen Star Stakes two starts ago. In The Louisiana Derby, he was given a horrible ride. While beginning to make his move at the top of the stretch, he was forced to check (the jockey pulling on a horse's reins to avoid collision), clipped heels with the horse in front of him and almost fell. He recovered nicely to finish fourth. Most recently he rallied mildly to be third in the Blue Grass Stakes, over a surface that is not kind to horses with his running style. A kinder Churchill Downs surface should help his cause.

Balto Star is this year's mystery horse. He exploded onto the scene with a 12-length win in the Spiral Stakes, and silenced the doubters that believed he was a one-race wonder by manhandling a solid field in the Arkansas Derby. With the track being sloppy last race, doubts still remain about his ability. His front-running style could compromise his chances in the Kentucky Derby if an expected fast pace materializes.

Point Given missed becoming two-year-old champion by a nose in last year's Breeders Cup Juvenile. He is the early favourite for the Derby and is a logical choice to win. His trainer, Bob Baffert, is especially adept at bringing along a three-year-old horse at this time of year. Baffert has captured the Derby twice before, in 1997 and 1998. Point Given's first start of the year was an easy win over a group of overmatched West Coast-based horses. He displayed his dominance over the west coast once again most recently in the Santa Anita Derby, drawing away for an easy win. With the Derby scheduled to be his third race of the year, he should be peaking at the right time.

Conagree conquered Monarchos in the Wood Memorial and is developing at a rapid clip. He was an unknown about a month ago, but with his big win he could be second favourite for the Derby. He is trained by Bob Baffert, a bonus factor, and has a low-to-the-ground, efficient stride that has impressed observers from the beginning of his career. His lone weakness is his inexperience. The Derby will be his fifth career start.

For those who have never experienced the thrill of watching the Kentucky Derby, it is a display like no other. Whether you're seeing it live at Churchill Downs or viewing from your home thousands of miles away, you can feel the electricity in the air as the horses are loaded into the starting gate. Endless hours of work and preparation go into this one race ... and for good reason. The thoroughbred that crosses in front of the twin spires of Churchill Downs and under the wire first instantly joins an elite club of equine athletes. They are the legends, the greats and sometimes the lucky. They are the ones who overcame the odds and performed when they had to the most: on the first Saturday in May.

32nd Annual Awards Banquet Award Recipients

Athlete of the Year Awards

Male Athlete of the Year:
Graeme Gaunt –Volleyball

Female Athlete of the Year:
Diane VandenHoven – Volleyball

Male Freshman
Brad Harreitha – Volleyball

Female Freshman
Carrie Stratford – Basketball

Most Valuable Player Awards

Men's Indoor Soccer
Nick DiSanto and Mike Peso

Women's Indoor Soccer
Dana Macdonald

Touch Football
Miguel Johnson

Golf
Guy Longval

Curling
Dave Medlyn

Most Valuable Player Awards

Men's Basketball
Ernell Ellis

Women's Baskeball
Jana Douglas

Men's Volleyball
Josh Gunnell

Women's Volleyball
Kelly Davis

Rugby
Wes McLachlin

OCCA All – Academic Awards

Volleyball
Bryan Baltare, Lindsay Kelly

Basketball
Stephen Rideout, Carrie Stratford, Kelly Lewis, Alexis Fulop

The staff of the *Niagara News* congratulates the Niagara Knights for their accomplishments.

Leafs pose question: who's the underdog?

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer
Column

During the National Hockey League's (NHL) regular season, the Toronto Maple Leafs claimed they are a team built for the playoffs. So far, they have remained true to their word.

If it was Toronto's goal to deceive their fans and critics into thinking they were only a mediocre hockey team in the regular season, their mission was accomplished.

As the regular season came to a close, the Maple Leafs seemed as if they were running out of gas. They entered the NHL playoffs (ranked seventh) as heavy underdogs to the Ottawa Senators (ranked second).

They were slammed by the media for their lack of leadership and vulnerable defence. Most people didn't give the Maple Leafs a chance to beat the Senators in the post-season, a team they lost five times to during the regular season. However, Toronto has made a complete reversal just in time for the playoffs.

The Maple Leafs are playing with passion and have improved in many areas they have failed in during the regular season. Everyone on the team, from the checking line to the leading scorers, has a job to do and is doing it as close to perfect as possible.

Most people didn't give the Maple Leafs a chance to beat the Senators ...

Goalie Curtis Joseph has played well during the regular season, but somehow has taken his performance up another level. Joseph, who did not give up a goal to the Senators in the first 223 minutes of the series, has inspired his team to play better and to step up to the task at hand.

The Toronto defence has also helped Joseph contain the Senators to only two goals in three games. The Senators were ranked third overall in the NHL regular season in goal scoring.

Every defencemen has contributed to helping Joseph in front of the net. In the first two games against the Sens, the Maple Leafs blocked an impressive 46 shots.

Forward Mats Sundin is beginning to lead the Leafs by example, scoring the winning goal in overtime in game one, and tied for leading scorer in the playoffs for the Leafs' Shayne Corson, left–winger, has kept Senators scoring threat Alexei Yashin, centre, in check with one point in three games.

A crucial factor why the Maple Leafs are having success against the Senators is their penalty killing. Last April when the Maple Leafs eliminated the Senators from the playoffs, the Senators were an awful 0 for 23 on the power play. This year, the Senators are 0 for 15 in the first three games.

The Maple Leafs are sending a clear message to the rest of the teams in the NHL playoffs.

The Maple Leafs are sending a clear message to the rest of the teams in the NHL playoffs that they will not be taken lightly.

FYI

JOBS

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Students are invited to apply for summer employment in the Facilities Management Services Division, Welland Campus. Positions will be available beginning May 1, 2001. The salary is $8.00/hr., for a 40-hour week. The usual hours of work are 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Duties will include demolition, painting and groundskeeping.

Candidates must be registered as a full-time post-secondary student. Safety shoes are a requirement.

Applications are available in Human Resources, Room L-21 or résumés may be addressed to:

The Recruitment Co-ordinator
Niagara College, 300 Woodlawn Road,
P.O. Box 1005,
Welland, Ontario
L3B 5S2
or
e-mail: humres@niagarac.on.ca
or
Fax: 905-736-6040

Please submit résumé using only one (1) of the above methods and while we thank all applicants for their interest, only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

(This ad courtesy of the Journalism-Print program.)

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1950s look has to go

Renovations are needed

By ERIK O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

The "shabby" concrete carpet-covered seating areas of Niagara College's Welland campus are in need of replacement, say students.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says he plans to improve on student gathering areas for September.

"We've dedicated about $2 million, part of it from the $293,000 surplus (projected for the end of the fiscal year, March 31), to get a new cafeteria and to refurbish the student gathering places," says Patterson. "It's below a standard we like."

Steve Hudson, the college's vice-president of corporate services, is overseeing the project. Hudson, 44, says the "centennial carpets" looked filthy.

"They should do some cosmetic work," says Lance Rozman, 20, of Caledonia, Ont. "Things like that are just shabby."

Rozman says the school could update a little, adding the college looks like something from the 1950s.

Rozman is a first-year Human Relations program student at the Welland campus. "I hate those seats," says Rozman. "They are constantly filthy."

The filthy benches are a product of people dumping their coffees and putting their feet on them, says Larry Mark, a computer technologist at the college.

Mark says he's "all for" the benches being replaced.

A resource collection from the University of Illinois' McKinley Health Centre Web site has a comprehensive guide to sitting correctly in an ergonomically unfit environment. Back pain, states the site, is experienced by four of five adults and is second only to headaches as a common problem in sending people to the doctor's office.

"They're very stiff and have no support," says Brian Perrault, 19. "After sitting in class you want somewhere soft to sit, not just another desk."

Perrault, a first-year Police Foundations program student, says he believes the benches, on a one to 10 scale, fit in at about two. The benches, he says, appear to have not been changed in years. A carpet shouldn't last that long, he says.

Jim, who asked his last name not be published, is a 22-year-old second-year Art and Design Fundamentals – Graphic Design Production program student. Jim says he does not see why the benches shouldn't be replaced.

The Environmental Building News says many indoor air quality experts suggest that the biggest problem with carpets may not be new carpet emissions at all. Once installed, a carpet acts like a filter for anything in the air, trapping particulates and pollutants. Anything carried onto a carpet by shoes or wheels can also become lodged in it. Hydrocarbons from a street or pesticides from a yard can enter the carpet matrix. Outdoors, ultraviolet sunlight eventually breaks down these chemicals, but in the carpet there is nothing to remove them. Frequent and effective vacuuming can reduce the accumulation of such contaminants, but not even hot-water extraction can eliminate them all.

Dawn, who would not reveal her full name, is in her third year of the Child and Youth Worker program. The 20-year-old student says the school could look better than it does.

"It looks kind of junky in some places," says Dawn. "They should definitely change the carpet (on the benches). Fix it up and clean it."

Welland campus may get YMCA

By JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

With summer approaching quickly, a number of Niagara College students are heading to the college's fitness room at the Welland campus.

Niagara College and the Welland Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) are investigating moving the YMCA facility to the college's Welland campus. The new YMCA, at 50,000 square feet, will be twice the size of the old one downtown. In the meantime, students are still utilizing the college's facilities in the Mackenzie building.

The YMCA moving to Niagara is a 'great idea...' — Reshma Dattu

The fitness room is located above the gymnasium. It is open Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday, it is open from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and noon to 5 p.m. on the weekend.

The fitness room offers a wide variety of weight machines and exercise equipment, including rowing machines, steppers and stationary bicycles. Students of the college have free usage of the room.

Reshma Dattu, 20, of Toronto, says she enjoys using the equipment. Dattu has used the college's facility once, but says she's setting a goal to work out three times a week for 45 minutes.

Dattu, a first-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program, says, "I don't need to lose weight. I just need to tone."

Dattu says she likes the fitness room because "there is a good variety of equipment." She says she likes that it looks over the gymnasium and she can watch people practicing as she works out.

Dattu says the YMCA moving to Niagara is a "great idea" because she would like to have a swimming pool available. "Even my high school had a pool," says Dattu, adding it will be worth paying an additional fee to use the new facility because of the numerous programs that will be offered.

Matt Yeoman, 20, a first-year student in the Police Foundations program, says he spends a lot of time in the fitness room. He says he has been using it five or six times a week for two hours since September. He works out because "It makes me feel good and pumped." He says he is happy with the facility overall, but thinks some improvements are needed.

"There is a great variety of free weights and basic equipment, but some of them need to be replaced."

Niagara College students taking advantage of the college's exercise facilities.

Photo by Mike Van Kooten

Yeoman says that some of the equipment is "hazardous." He says the new YMCA will be great for the students because there will be more space and equipment.

Some people say they are "very excited" about the YMCA's move, but two students say they "are still happy with the facility currently available at the college."

BIOGRAPHIES

Part-time teacher, full-time effort

By TINA LANZILLOTTA
Staff Writer

Pulse Magazine freelance journalist, Willy Noiles says being a part-time instructor is his way of giving back to Niagara College in Welland.

"Teaching is my way of giving back to the college that has given so much to me," says Noiles, who graduated from the Journalism-Print program in 1995.

In January 2001, Noiles replaced, on a part-time basis, retired professor Mike Collins as the Municipal Finance course teacher.

Noiles says the wage for part-time teaching isn't enough since it doesn't account for marking and overtime. "I teach because I want to," says the 32-year-old Welland native, adding he has found it a challenging experience. "The challenge has been to try and explain what I know just off the top of my head and to explain it in way that not only are the students going to understand, but they are going to apply as well."

Noiles says another challenge he faces is having to relearn the course himself. "When I took the course, which was way back in '94, a lot of the stuff that we learned then has changed." Trying to relate what he knows from experience to the students so they understand it, is one of the obstacles Noiles says he faces.

'I believe that to become a journalist, it's got to be in your blood.'

"It's one thing to cover (city) council. It's another thing to explain it, and that's my challenge."

The one thing he'd like to see changed is the name of the course. "There is no real point in calling it Municipal Finance because basically what you are looking at is the structure of local government and how it operates," says Noiles, who has a bachelor of arts degree in politics from Brock University in St. Catharines.

"When the students walk out of this course, I'm not expecting them to be able to go out there and take all the numbers that someone has given them and make up a budget." Noiles says his prime concern is to make sure the students really understand the structure and operations of the municipal government so there will be more educated journalists covering that political area.

'Teaching is my way of giving back to the college that has given so much to me.'

Having worked for such newspapers as *The Standard* and the former *Niagara Chronicle*, Noiles says he originally wanted to be an entertainment reporter and "didn't care about anything but entertainment." He has interviewed celebrities such as Canadian singer Jane Siberry and Canadian comedian Scott Thompson in the past, but, given the choice, he says, he would rather interview a politician.

"Everything I did in university was centred around provincial politics. Even when I was here (Niagara College) in my second year I went to Queen's Park a lot to do different stories," says Noiles, who has always had a passion for politics, especially that of the provincial government.

Noiles says although he can't pinpoint exactly when this interest began, he knows it was at an early age and if it were possible he would have voted before he was 18. "Even before I knew anything about politics, I always knew it was my civic duty to vote."

Noiles says he enjoys teaching and would welcome a full-time position in the future if the opportunity presents itself. However, he would continue to write. "I believe that to become a journalist, it's got to be in your blood."

After Hours supervisor looking forward to future

By VALERIE PAQUETTE
Staff Writer

Food, beverages, music and smiles — all of these things are at After Hours, the Niagara College pub at the Welland campus.

Laurie Noel, 25, is the kitchen supervisor there. As a full-time employee she works Monday to Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Fridays takes over the supervisor's position from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She says she often will work one weeknight, perhaps the Movie Night on Tuesday or Comedy Night on Wednesday, or the regular Thursday pub night.

Employed since September, Noel says she enjoys working here.

"It's a nice and relaxed atmosphere. I get along with my co-workers great." One thing Noel says she doesn't like is the 8:30 a.m. shift. "I take the bus so have to get up a lot earlier for work."

Noel says she and Glenda Turner, the pub supervisor, used to work together at another bar.

"Glenda offered me the job here because we had worked together in the past."

Noel says her responsibilities are to take orders, cook and serve food and handle the cash, all while staying polite. The busiest hours at the pub are between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., says Noel.

Noel, a resident of Welland all her life, attended one year of the Tourism program at the college's Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, Ont. She says she plans to return to school for photography "one day."

These days, Noel says, she is so busy she doesn't have time for much else. Any extra time has been spent moving and being with her long-term boyfriend. She says her employer is "really good" about giving her time off when she needs it.

"The first day I started here it was my birthday and without even asking they gave me the day off."

Leaming enforces order for residents

By DUSTY JACKSON
Staff Writer

Amy Leaming, the manager-in-training at Niagara College's Residence and Conference Centre, does not strike one as an intimidating person.

She is responsible for keeping the college residence in order. There are about 200 students who live in residence.

Leaming, 24, of St. Catharines, has been working at the residence for almost three months. She has lived in the Niagara region all of her life."I really like the area. I grew up in Niagara Falls, and I've lived in this area all of my life."

Leaming says she enjoys working at the residence, but it does have its negative aspects. "I have to work a lot of long and inconsistent hours, but I don't really mind it."

The Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre is owned by Residence Living Centres, a company that is not a part of the college.

Leaming says it is a company that specializes in designing college residences.

"I think the price is pretty reasonable, " says Leaming of the cost of living at residence, which is about $4,500 for one school year.

"The residents don't have to worry about paying for utilities or cable every month. Getting phones hooked up can also be a big hassle, but residents don't have to worry about that."

Leaming says she is responsible for enforcing the rules, which she feels are pretty fair.

"The rules and regulations are put into place for a reason. In the past things have happened and we put the rules into play to make sure they don't happen again. It's not like we made them up just for fun."

There is one particular rule that applies to the staff, and it is staff members are not allowed to date residents.

She says she thinks this is a reasonable rule. "I can understand this rule in regards to confidentiality issues. The people (involved in the relationship) may tell each other things in confidentiality and two months down the road when the relationship goes sour this confidentiality can be compromised."

Leaming says the residents of the building can be a hassle sometimes, but she generally likes most of the people. "I get to see a lot of really drunk people doing really stupid things all of the time. It can be entertaining."

Babes in balloon land

Children watch as balloon animals are made before their eyes at the Seaway Mall on April 7.

Photo by Sean F. Taylor

Fun, Interesting Facts

The queen of England has two birthdays.

The mother of Michael Nesbit of 'the Monkeys' invented liquid paper correction fluid.

Sheryl Crow's front two teeth are fake — she had them knocked out when she tripped on the stage earlier in her career.

The actor who played Wedge in the original Star Wars trilogy has a famous nephew: actor Ewan McGregor, who plays the young Obi-Wan in the new Star Wars film.

Adolf Hitler was fascinated by hands. In his library there was a well-thumbed book containing pictures and drawings of hands belonging to famous people throughout history. He liked particularly to show his guests how closely his own hands resembled those of Frederick the Great, one of his heroes.

Canadian researchers have found that Einstein's brain was 15 per cent wider than normal. Scientists at a University in Ontario, have discovered that the part of Einstein's brain thought to be related to mathematical reasoning - the inferior parietal region - was 15 per cent wider on both sides than a normal brain.

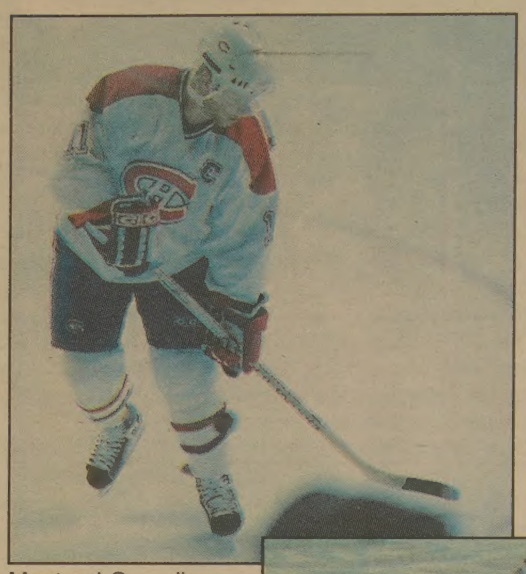
The only married couple to fly together in space were Jan Davis and Mark Lee, who flew aboard the Endeavor space shuttle from September 12-20, 1992.

Hans Christian Andersen, creator of fairy tales, was word-blind. He never learned to spell correctly, and his publishers always had the spelling errors corrected.

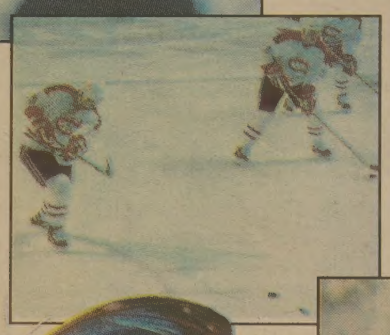
Source: http://www.funfacts.co.uk/

Wrap Up

Montreal offers much to see and do



Montreal Canadiens captain Saku Koivu takes a pass during the pre-game warmup.



The Boer War Memorial stands before the Mary, Queen of the World cathedral, built in 1894.

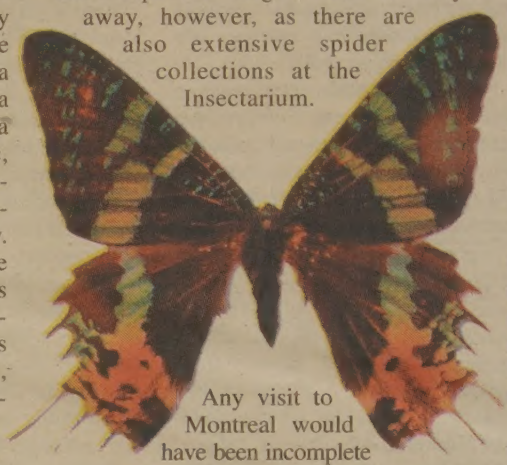
By BRAD DEMERS
Staff Writer

Montreal is a paradox.

Perhaps no other city in the world blends the new and the old the way Montreal does. Montreal's Notre Dame Basilica graces the old city, a tribute to gothic architecture. Only a few blocks away, the downtown is a curious but beautiful mix of gothic, neoclassical and postmodern architectural styles. Commemorative sculptures flesh out this mix of old and new.

Animal lovers shouldn't miss the Montreal Biodome, which features many different animals from all corners of the world. Special exhibits there include golden lion tamarins, penguins, puffins and a section of a typical St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Visitors can take a closer look at familiar Canadian species, including northern pike, lake sturgeon and smallmouth bass.

Those interested in smaller animals might want to visit the Montreal Insectarium, which features mounted and live insects. Those with arachnophobia might want to stay away, however, as there are also extensive spider collections at the Insectarium.



Any visit to Montreal would have been incomplete without a trip to the Montreal Forum, once home of hockey's fabled Montreal Canadiens. Unfortunately, the Forum closed down several years ago and the Canadiens have moved to the Molson Centre. This itself is a hockey spectacle but it lacks the charm and majesty of the old Forum.

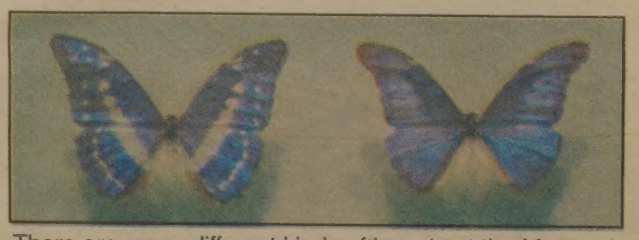
Like any large city, Montreal has its share of traffic congestion. Visitors can beat the traffic by remaining underground and taking the Métro, Montreal's subway system. The Métro is clean, efficient and a great way to travel around town. Those who like to shop should visit the many underground malls in Montreal, most of which are linked by the subway.

Any visit to Montreal wouldn't be complete without experiencing the downtown nightlife. Whether it's a quiet cup of tea in a small café or a night at a discotheque, Montreal has something for everyone.

Don't forget to try the poutine while you're there.

Montreal's Insectarium also has an interesting collection of spiders, scorpions and other arthropods.

A subway train approaches the platform at the Berri-UQAM Métro station.



There are many different kinds of insects at the Montreal Insectarium, including domestic and exotic butterflies.

Photos by Brad Demers

Managing Child Care Centre leads to 'a lot of personal satisfaction'

By RYAN SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

Not everyone can handle working with children, but Pat Eversden says there is a certain level of satisfaction.

Eversden, 47, of Fort Erie, Ont., graduated from Niagara College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in 1975. She worked for Niagara Region Child Care for 14 years, managing the Fort Erie and St. Catharines child care centres.

She returned to Niagara College in 1990 to manage the college's Child Care Centre, at the Welland campus, because of her interest in working with children and its close location, she says.

While working here, Eversden says she achieved her ECE (Post-graduate) administration diploma at Niagara's Welland campus.

"There is never a dull moment," says Eversden, adding, "The children are very interesting and entertaining."

Eversden says she got into child care because of her "love for children." She says she "enjoys working with the parents," and that aspect of her job contributes to "a lot of personal satisfaction."

"If you can help one person every day, it's worth it," says Eversden, adding, the work does get "overwhelming," but as long you're well organized and positive, the workload isn't too bad.

As manager of the Child Care Centre, Eversden says "The duties are endless." She oversees the operation and its effectiveness and provides leadership for 10 full-time and five part-time employees.

While assigning others their duties and responsibilities, Eversden says she does the hiring, marketing and public relations for the centre, as well as the budgets and financial books. Eversden says she has to keep the child care centre, which operates under the Day Nurseries Act of Ontario, to provincial standards within a limited budget.